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BELLS
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELLS

THE GUARDIAN

Printed in London and Manchester

Saturday April 6 1985

25p

BELLS
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELLS

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for here
and now

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Thatcher air deal fails to pacify Malaysia

From Nick Cummings-Bruce in
Kuala Lumpur and
James Naughtie in London

The Prime Minister yesterday
settled Britain's differ-
ences with Malaysia over trade
and air traffic, but still found
herself under attack in Kuala
Lumpur for alleged inequalities
in the treatment of Com-
monwealth partners.

On the first day of her
seven-nation tour of the Far
East and Saudi Arabia, Mrs
Thatcher conducted a success-
ful negotiation with Dr
Mahathir Mohamad, the Malay-
sian Prime Minister, in which
an extra flight from Kuala
Lumpur to London was
allowed and promises of subse-
quent trade deals for British
firms were given.

Shortly afterwards, however,
Dr Mahathir started his quest
with a sharp criticism of the
Commonwealth at a banquet
held in Mrs Thatcher's honour,
in which he described the or-
ganisation as "a creature of
the past".

He said: "The word
Commonwealth implies a cer-
tain sharing of wealth between
members. We took it quite lit-
erally at first, but we have
since found out that the
Commonwealth has nothing to
do with wealth commonly
owned."

If any member wants any-
thing he has to pay for it one
way or another. If non-mem-
bers are prepared to pay more
than they have to, they will
result in the Commonwealth
being only Malaysia's foreign policy
interest," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who has a repu-
tation for hard-headedness and
prickly behaviour, said that
there was "a substantial
commonality of views" between
the two countries. Mrs
Thatcher delivered a gentle
rebuke about his dismissal of
the sentimental aspects of Ma-
laysia's colonial past.

"I think it is because you
are a man and I am a woman,"
she said. "Sentimentality is a
little bit more in my life than
in yours. I do think that senti-
ment counts."

Before the banquet, during
three hours of discussions
which began with a 50-minute
meeting of the two prime min-
isters alone, the two sides com-
promised on a long-standing
request by Malaysia's airline,
MAS, for an extra flight to
London.

The seemingly minor and
rather technical dispute had
come to assume larger signifi-
cance in Malaysia where it was
seen as an example of British
insensitivity to legitimate de-
mands on the part of its for-
mer colony. Had the issue re-
lated to relations on a much
broader level would have
suffered.

In the event, Britain agreed to
the extra flight, but it will
not start to operate for a year
or two and Malaysia tacitly
agreed to look again at tax
privileges recently awarded to
Malaysians travelling by MAS,
which Britain and a number of
airlines considered unfair
discrimination.

The agreement was hailed by
the Malaysians as "a land-
mark" and although discus-
sions were described as busi-
ness-like, rather than "can-
did", officials said pri-
vately that they augured well
for the future.

With that issue safely out of
the way, the two sides went on
to discuss British interests in
a number of potentially lucrative
contracts ranging from the sale
of buses to joint ventures in
defence industries, and Malay-
sian concerns over education,
for its students abroad, and its
Turn to back page, col. 5

Employers bitter as NUT votes
on intensifying pay disruption

Teachers threaten chaos in new term

By Andrew Moncur
Education Staff

Children face a summer of
disruption, with their schools
being hit repeatedly by teach-
ers' strikes, under an intensi-
fied pay campaign to be put
to members of the largest
teaching union today.

A higher level of hostilities
seems certain to be agreed by
the National Union of Teach-
ers at its conference in
Scarborough.

The union leadership will
seek powers this afternoon to
extend the range of sanctions
and to increase disruptive ac-
tion in selected target areas.

Local education authorities
which resist voicing support
for the teachers' pay demands
are in line for the most severe
disruption.

The NUT is determined to
persuade the local authorities
to accept its demands for a
3.5% pay rise, plus a 1% cost-
of-living allowance, and a 1%
allowance for private housing.

Teachers in Scotland have
sought to force the issue by
striking, but the Scottish Gov-
ernment has refused to accept
their demands.

Teachers in England and
Wales will face the prospect
of being hit over and over
again by teachers' walk-
outs, ranging from half-day to
three-day stoppages.

So far, schools hit once have
been asked to return to work
after a day or two. Authorities
have known that each week a
new hit list would be drawn up,
avoiding the repeat action week-
wide spread chaos in Scottish schools.

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getted in a similar way for a
series of disruptive actions,
continuing indefinitely.

The proposals from the NUT
executive, which will be put to
delegates in the form of an
emergency motion, brought a
bitterly angry response last
night from the leader of the
employers in the teachers' pay
negotiations.

Mr Philip Morrell, chair-
man of Hampshire education
committee and the employers'
spokesman on the Burnham
pay-negotiating committee,
said: "What on earth do they
expect to achieve by turning
on the children and treating
them in this outrageous way?"

"They will totally lose the
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Restoring the rose: Mr Peter Gibson, Secretary of the York Glaziers' Trust with a section for York Minster's rose window, restoration of which is about to begin. Picture by Don McPhee. Report, more pictures, page 2

Reagan's peace initiative doomed

By James Naughtie
Political Correspondent

The Government sealed the
fate of the Northern Ireland
gas industry yesterday when it
refused to accept a modified
plan for a natural gas pipeline
from the Irish Republic.

Mr Philip Morrell, chair-
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Veto for Ulster gas pipeline

By James Naughtie
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32-mile jam hits M-way

By Paul Brown

A 32-MILE traffic jam across
two counties caused the
worst holiday hold-up in the
MI's history yesterday.

Police in Northampton-
shire said the sheer volume
of traffic heading north and
into the contra-flow road
works at junction 18 caused
an unprecedented build-up.

The jam began early in
the morning and, by mid-
afternoon, the tail-back was
32 miles long from south of
junction 18 at Rugby, to a
point between junctions 14
in Buckinghamshire and 13
in Bedfordshire.

Inspector Paul Kimbrey, of
Thames Valley Police said:
"We have never seen any-
thing like this one. It is the
worst traffic jam on the M1
we can remember."

He said that motorists
were making matters worse
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Mild weather warms government on jobs

By Margaret Pagnano,
City Correspondent

A slowing in the increase in
the number of unemployed last
month to 3,000 on a seasonally
adjusted basis will bring some
comfort to the Government in
its efforts to tackle
unemployment.

This compares with the
sharp rises recorded over the
past three months, which had
been blamed on the severe
weather conditions and ap-
peared to take levels back to
the high increases seen last
summer.

Unemployment increased by
3,000 to 2,147,000 in March, ex-
cluding school leavers accord-
ing to provisional figures
released in Thursday. This
leaves the number out of work
for March at February's figure
of 18 per cent. The figure for
March 1984 was 12.5 per cent.

The Department of Em-
ployment said the lower in-
crease was an unwelcome effect
following the return to more nor-
mal March weather conditions.
But officials said the underly-
ing trend in adult employ-
ment measured on a six
month basis is still growing.
At between 10,000 and 15,000 a
month.

The unadjusted figure
showed one of the most signi-
cant falls—58,000 to
3,268,000—since the series was
started in 1971. This
brings the level down to 13.5
per cent of the workforce com-
pared to February's 13.7 per
cent.

Mr Tom King, the Em-
ployment Secretary, said: "On
their own, this month's figures
are more encouraging, particu-
larly having regard to the em-
ployment increases and the
fact that it will be some
months before the first effects
of the budget are seen."

The 56,000 fall in total un-
employment was made up of a
drop of 48,000 adults and some
10,000 school leavers.

On the vacancy front, there
was also some encouraging
signs with the number of va-
cancies at jobcentres up by
3,100 to 159,200.

Mr King added: "The fall is
a significant improvement on
recent months. There is
slightly better news on vacan-
cies too, which, after falling in
these months, have risen
again."

Much of the recovery came
from job increases in the
South-east, East Anglia and
West Midlands regions, which
had been particularly hit by
bad weather in earlier months.

The independent Unemploy-
ment Unit estimates that on
the old basis of counting un-
employment figures, the unem-
ployment figures for March
should be 3,502,000 or 14.8 per
cent, including school leavers.

The unit argues that its fig-
ures cover all those who are
unemployed—including people
over 60 who are now removed
from the official figures by
the offer of special benefits.

Figures for Northern Ireland
revealed a small dip in the
numbers of unemployed from
21 per cent to 20.9 per cent

Next week

Monday

THE TIME IS NOW

How did Britain come to
have an independent
nuclear deterrent? And
how independent has it
ever been? Margaret
Gowing dissects the
strange history of a
nation's post-war
partnership with the
United States
LEFT BEHIND

Eric Hobsbawm examines
the merits of a broad
alliance of opposition to
the Thatcher government
PLUS POSY

Noodles with Sauce:



A quick guide to juvenile
gastronomy

Tuesday

FIGHTING BACK
Guardian Women takes a
self defence course

Wednesday

CLINICAL JUDGMENT
Everyday moral decision
making in medicine —
Society Tomorrow
considers the doctor's
dilemma

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Boat Race faces troubled waters

By John Kiard

Extra police and Port of
London Authority launches
have been drafted in to the
start of today's Oxford-Cam-
bridge Boat Race, after an un-
official threat by some Thames
watermen to blockade the
river.

The threat to stop the race
has been signalled

Leftwing areas ready to end defiance of law

NUM treads carefully to retrieve court cash

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

Miners' union officials are planning a delicate step by step strategy over the next few weeks to free the union from control of the court appointed sequestrator and receiver.

Leftwing areas of the National Union of Mineworkers have acknowledged that there is little practical purpose in continuing open defiance of the courts and are seeking a form of accommodation with the judiciary.

The Lancashire area is planning an application to release membership contributions earmarked for area unions. Normally, half a miner's weekly contribution of around £1.40 is handed to the area unions with the remainder going to the national union.

A large proportion of the national union's money is then handed back to the areas for the payment of area officials, compensation and branch running expenses. The Lancashire area claims that their money is being withheld improperly by the receiver.

Area unions have been applying individually to the receiver for their proportion of members' contributions. All union subscriptions are deducted from a miner's weekly pay by the National Coal Board, which has been handing the money to the receiver.

Lawyers acting for the Lancashire area argue that none of the area unions are in contempt of court and that the action which led in December to the appointment of the receiver by Mr Justice Mervyn Davies and the removal of the national union's

three trustees. A successful application by Lancashire would pave the way for other areas to follow suit.

As a further sign of compliance with the law, the NUM executive is recommending a series of rule changes to bring the union's method of electing the national executive into line with the Trade Union Act, 1974.

The NUM's annual delegate conference this summer. Clarification over the voting rights of the NUM president, Mr Arthur Scargill, on the national executive is also expected at the conference.

Under the act, the president would have to have five-yearly re-election if he held a casting vote on the executive.

Under NUM practice, the chairman of the executive, who is not necessarily the President, holds a casting vote.

The NUM believes that it can clear its contempt without having to apologise formally to the court.

The union's lawyers point out that Mr Justice Scott lifted a sequestration order against the South Wales miners union on March 12 without receiving a formal apology from the union or any undertaking as to its future conduct.

The judge said: "The court's dignity does not depend upon or require an expressed public recantation of the sincerity of which might in the circumstances be open to question."

He said the key factor was whether the court's jurisdiction had been seen to prevail and whether the original contempt had been adequately punished through the sequestration.

Some lawyers close to the NUM believe that Mr Justice Scott's remarks could be construed as an invitation to the union to apply for discharge of the sequestration. Most of the NUM's money transferred abroad has now been recovered.

Mr Scargill visited the Durham area on Thursday in an attempt to dissuade the area NUM from expelling more miners who broke the strike. He later spoke to the area disciplinary committee which has expelled 180 miners.

Mr Billy Stobbs, the Durham area representative on the NUM executive, acknowledged that the expulsions might have embarrassed the national union in its attempts to persuade the Nottinghamshire leadership that the union did not plan wholesale expulsions of working miners.

A DELEGATION of three Nottinghamshire miners who were due to visit Russia in May have been told the invitation has been withdrawn. A telegram sent to Nottinghamshire NUM headquarters and signed "Pomo Grilo, Secretary of Soviet comrades," reads: "This is to inform you that the union has to withdraw its invitation of January 2, 1985."

There was no explanation of why the visit — part of an annual reciprocal arrangement — had been called off. The delegation consisted of two colliery branch officials and the NUM pensions officer, Mr David Frendergast.

New pressure for defence post inquiry

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

The Government is facing growing pressure for an inquiry into the appointment of Mr Peter Levene as chief of defence procurement following new answers from the Prime Minister about the extent of secondment to the Civil Service from the business community.

Members of the Commons defence select committee, at present in the United States on another investigation, are still considering summoning Mr Levene and Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, to give evidence. Several members of the treasury and Civil Service committee are also pressing for a study of the appointment.

In parliamentary answers to Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East, Mrs Thatcher has revealed that

there were 118 secondments to the Civil Service from outside organisations in 1984 and that in the past four years five such appointments have been made to the Ministry of Defence without the need for a certificate from the Civil Service commissioners.

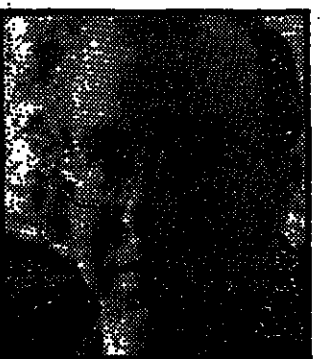
The Prime Minister has refused to publish any arrangements proposed for Mr Levene's secondment before it was discovered that the terms of his appointment fell outside the Order of Council guidelines.

Mr Brown said last night: "There is now clearly a need for a wide-ranging inquiry. The growth of appointments from business coming just at the moment when the Government is giving away so much under its privatisation policy is very worrying."

In the list of last year's secondments issued from Downing Street, the Department of Trade and Industry leads the field with 40. The MoD had a total of 14.

Mrs Thatcher repeated that new procedures were being devised to ensure that future secondments were made in compliance with the 1982 Order in Council.

Mr Levene, who will earn a total of £107,000 a year, was formerly chairman of United Scientific Holdings, a leading arms contractor, and will be promoted until the first anniversary of his appointment next March from seeing papers concerning possible contracts with any companies with which he was associated.



Mr Peter Levene — former chairman

Pope ban 'an outrage'

The BBC's decision to cancel the screening of the Pope's Easter Sunday message is an outrage, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, a former leader of the Commons and a prominent Roman Catholic, said yesterday.

"The corporation has insulted not only millions of Roman Catholics in Great Britain but Christians of all denominations by this foolish decision," he said.

seen in every other European country.

Mr St John-Stevas, Conservative MP for Chelmsford, added: "I hope that second thoughts will prevail and we will be able to see and hear the Pope on Easter Day."

The decision not to broadcast the Pope's message from Rome, for the first time in 30 years, was brought about by a sharp fall in viewing figures. It is understood that last year's figure was only 200,000.

Women continue fight for pits

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

The Women Against Pit Closures group is to set up a permanent national organisation despite the ending of the coal strike. Draft proposals for a national organisation are being discussed by the regional miners' wives' groups and will be discussed at a meeting of the group's national committee next week.

The draft proposals include an individual membership of 30p a week with a third going to the national group, a third to the areas and a third to the National Union of Mineworkers.

The intention is to have three categories of membership — those who are also members of the NUM (about 8,000 women are in the union), those who are not (about 10,000), and those who are not (about 10,000).

The women's group is also discussing with NUM national and area officials the possibility of some kind of associate membership of the union. It has already been tentatively discussed by the union executive, but some executive members are strongly opposed to the union diluting its current membership structure.

The national leadership, including Mr Arthur Scargill, has enthusiastically backed the development of the miners' wives' organisations.

The union's annual delegate conference is already due to discuss the change in its membership. The Women Against Pit Closures group is also discussing setting up a national programme for miners' wives.

Jean McGrindle, the national treasurer, said yesterday: "There is a real thirst among the women to learn more about politics and trade unions."

"As yet there is no evidence of any decline in the miners' wives' groups, even though one might expect them to feel exhausted and willing to return to what they called normality before the strike."

Mrs Betty Heathfield, an ex-official member of the group's 17-strong national committee, said: "We want to move fairly quickly to set up a national organisation. The media has ignored the numerical strength of the miners' wives' movement. We all realise that there is still a giant struggle ahead."

The Consumer Council need to go to the courts or to the solicitors' disciplinary tribunal.

The Consumer Council argues that the present complaints system is too fragmented. Complaints about misconduct are dealt with by the Law Society. Claims for compensation arising from negligence have to be pursued privately through the courts.

It also suggests there is a major conflict of interest within the Law Society, which has to promote the interests of the profession and provide a complaints procedure.

The Consumer Council welcomes the changes to be introduced in the Administration of Justice Bill, enabling the Law Society to order a solicitor to



At work on the window — seen in situ below — are Peter Gibson (left), Anthony Temperton, and apprentice Joseph Burton. Pictures by Don McPhee

Assembling a glass jigsaw in 4,000 pieces

Malcolm Pithers reports on a daunting project at York Minster



RESTORATION experts are about to begin work on what they call the largest medieval glass in the world.

The jigsaw is the famous Rose Window at York Minster, severely damaged by fire last July. Fortunately, not a single piece of the 15th century glass was lost in the blaze but all 73 panels which hold more than 8,000 individual pieces of glass, were blistered and cracked.

Restorers are ready to begin a time-consuming process, not so much of piecing the window together as of cementing it with a silicon-based liquid which will hold the tiny fragments of rare glass in position.

The fire at York Minster caused millions of pounds worth of damage and left the Rose Window perilously suspended 35ft above the south transept with no roof support.

The glass panels in the window were later removed piece by piece and carried into the workshops of the York Glaziers Trust.

Now, after months of investigation, a decision has been taken on how best to rebuild the Rose Window.

It would be impossible to dismantle the panels and then rebuild them because the glass itself would disintegrate. So Mr Peter Gibson, secretary of the Glaziers Trust, has devised a method of sandwiching the old glass

panels between two new sections.

Next a type of liquid glue will be poured over the original glass so that it will seep between the honeycombed cracks. When this has hardened, the new glass will be placed over the back and front of the panels before they are lifted back into place in the south transept.

Tests are now being carried out by Professor Roy Newton, visiting professor at Sheffield University, and Dr Norman Tatum, of Glasgow's museum and art gallery, to determine which type of liquid glue will be suitable for the glass.

Throughout all the process, strips of simple, old-fashioned adhesive tape, which were placed on the panels after the blaze, will remain on the windows so there is no risk of the glass crumbling. The Rose Window will look virtually unchanged to the millions who visit York Minster each year and stare at it from the ground.

There has been talk of adding some small insignia to mark the fire of 1984, but no decision has yet been taken.

The window, 22ft 4in in diameter, will probably be back in position within three years. Before the fire the jigsaw contained 8,000 separate pieces of glass, but now, because of the damage and the cracks, there are an estimated 40,000 pieces of individual glass.

Molesworth protesters run Heseltine's gauntlet

Police have key role in helping rally to get peace message across. David Fairhall reports on a bylaw broadside

THE organisers of this week-end's mass anti-nuclear demonstration at the Cambridgehire missile site are hoping that a tolerant attitude shown by the Cambridgehire police will help prevent violence.

The police have persuaded the Ministry of Defence to lend 10 acres of land adjacent to the missile site on which people can congregate and have promised to apply the tough new statutory three-weeks of public consultation.

Even if the demonstration is as good natured as similar Easter protests have been in the past, the march on Molesworth will mark a change in the public consultation over nuclear weapons. The physical and legal advantage is shifting at least temporarily in favour of the authorities.

to use their discretion over Easter, to avoid the absurd prospect of some CND leader finding himself in custody for poking a daffodil through the perimeter wire.

The important general effect of the new bylaws, made by Mr Heseltine under the Military Lands Act of 1952, is to make it an arrestable offence simply to trespass on either of the American cruise missile bases, whether or not criminal damage is involved.

Some anti-nuclear campaigners whose attitude has been hardened by frequent clashes with the authorities — and this evidently includes some of the women arrested for breaking into Greenham Common this week — may welcome more arrests for the publicity they

bring, even if there are fines of up to £100.

Others will see them as a sign of the tough line signalled by Mr Heseltine when his troops moved in overnight to seal off the Molesworth site with barbed wire.

The purpose of this surprise operation was to evict protesters from the so-called Rainbow Village and to provide a screen behind which civil contractors could erect the perimeter fence. It was noticeable that neither police nor soldiers could bring themselves to demolish the villagers' half-built peace chapel which still stands in its own circle of barbed wire like some primitive do-it-yourself Norman chancel.

In one sense, starting all most from scratch, on the

NEWS IN BRIEF

Families sit in

SEVEN families, including children, have barricaded themselves into a council office at Coventry in an attempt to get rehoused from the Wood End estate, where they say vandalism is making their lives a misery, writes Sarah Bosley.

A spokesman for the families said that despite protests to the local authority and the police, nothing had been done about vandalism and hooliganism on the estate.

Bridge tournament

THE 20TH Easter bridge tournament, sponsored by the Guardian, began yesterday at the Park Lane Hotel, London, with a record number of 4,000 players from Britain and overseas are expected to take part.

Main event in the three-day tournament is the Guardian Pairs Championship. The tournament also includes the finals of the under-25s pairs. The 30 finalists in this event have also been invited to take part in the third main event, the Teams of Four championships, competing for the Rixi Markus Cup.

Canal study

A £55,000 study to save the upper reaches of the Manchester Ship Canal has been commissioned by the management consultant Coopers & Lybrand.

A steering committee, with representatives from local authorities, North-west Water and the Manchester Ship Canal Company, commissioned the study, which is looking at the prospects of attracting new traffic to the waterway and cutting down running costs.

Prestwick's place

THE Government has decided that Prestwick should remain the principal international Scottish airport for long haul passenger services, ending months of uncertainty about its future, writes Alan Travis.

The announcement by the Scottish Office and the Department of Transport follows a review of Scottish lowland airports during which the Government expressed concern at Prestwick's decline in traffic and mounting losses.

Tee-shirt ban

CHELSEA football club has warned supporters attending matches at its Stamford Bridge ground that they will be barred if they wear tee-shirts with anti-semitic slogans.

Last week, Haverhill Road magistrates fined a Chelsea fan £100 for wearing such a shirt.

Molesworth base has made things easier for the Ministry of Defence, but the police job of reconciling a legitimate right of public protest with local resentment of the intrusion is more difficult.

The local people concerned are not the ratepayers of Newbury, long used to having a US Air Force airfield in the midst of their common land, but relatively isolated farmers and villagers, usually undisturbed by anything but a few weekend motorists.

Suddenly, their parochial anxieties about carelessly parked cars or damaged crops have been submerged in a nationwide national debate about defence strategy and the threat of nuclear war.

Leader comment, page 12

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OBITUARY

Alec Kemp

ALEC KEMP, a deputy publisher of the Guardian, died yesterday aged 57. He had recently returned to work after a heart operation.

Mr Kemp joined the Guardian in 1964 as a driver, delivering copies to railway stations. Ten years ago he was appointed deputy publisher, overseeing the printing of the paper.

His wife died in 1983. Mr Kemp, who lived in Landon, Essex, is survived by two daughters and a son.

Cruise protest women gaoled

Two peace women who spent three hours in the control tower at the Greenham Common cruise missile base and damaged documents have been gaoled.

Rebecca Johnson, 29, was imprisoned for a month and Elizabeth Galt, 21, for 14 days after they refused at Reading Crown Court last Thursday to be bound over to keep the peace for three years. They had been convicted by a jury of causing criminal damage.

Judge John Murchie had said he did not want to make them martyrs but their refusal to be bound over forced his hand.

Tribunal suggested to judge solicitors

By Malcolm Dean

Complaints against solicitors should be submitted to an independent legal council rather than to the Law Society, says a report published yesterday by the National Consumer Council.

The suggested legal council, which would include lawyers and lay members, would appoint a legal ombudsman to investigate complaints which would be initially sent to the council. The ombudsman, who would employ investigators, should have the power to impose fines, order the refund of fees or award compensation below about £2,000.

Cases involving large amounts of compensation or serious misconduct would still

need to go to the courts or to the solicitors' disciplinary tribunal.

The Consumer Council argues that the present complaints system is too fragmented. Complaints about misconduct are dealt with by the Law Society. Claims for compensation arising from negligence have to be pursued privately through the courts.

It also suggests there is a major conflict of interest within the Law Society, which has to promote the interests of the profession and provide a complaints procedure.

The Consumer Council welcomes the changes to be introduced in the Administration of Justice Bill, enabling the Law Society to order a solicitor to

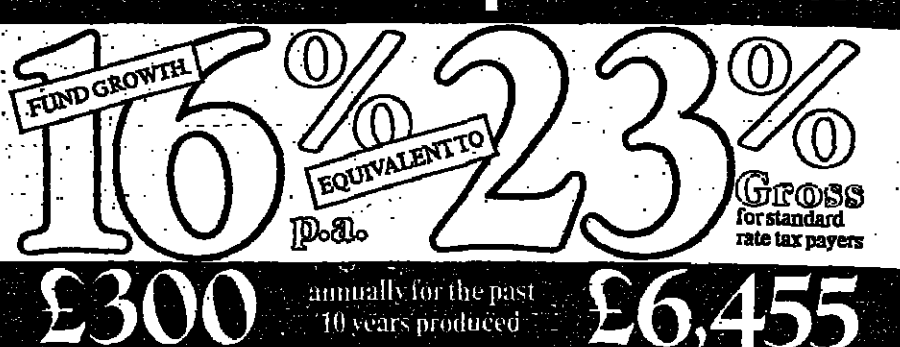
refund all or part of the fees for work which is below standard.

"But complainants will still have to decide themselves whether to take their case to court or to the Law Society. And the conflicts of interest facing the Law Society will become far worse once it starts to deal with financial claims against its own members."

The Law Society is ready to make some changes. It commissioned a report last year from Coopers and Lybrand which sets out options for a new complaints system.

In dispute with the solicitor, price £3 from NCC, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA.

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Brothers beaten by police receive £4,000

Two teenage brothers who claimed they were beaten by police have received £4,000 in an out-of-court settlement. However, their father, a former police officer, claims the payout is part of a cover up.

Baltimore and Eric Ranger, now aged 16 and 17, said that between 10 and 12 uniformed police officers attacked them with truncheons as they left a north London funfair in August 1983.

Both were treated in hospital for injuries including a broken nose sustained by Baltimore.

Mr Leslie Ranger, aged 54, of Stock Orchard Crescent, Holloway, north London—who served with the Jamaican police for nine years—sued for damages. He says he accepted the money 20 months after the alleged incident, to spare his sons the ordeal of going to court.

"The police paid out the money because they were afraid that all the facts would come out in court and cause them embarrassment," said Mr Ranger.

"They say they still haven't found any officers who were responsible, but their investigation is a complete sham. They know who did it, but they aren't going to tell me or anyone else."

"It is an outrage. They just saw two defenceless blacks and thought they would give them a good kicking."

Eric Ranger said the police mistook him and his brother for youths who taunted them as they drove past in a police van.

Baltimore Ranger said: "If anything ever happened to me, the police are the last people I would call — I've completely lost trust in them."



Eric (top) and Baltimore Ranger: Attacked leaving funfair

Dales park fears for winding road

By Michael Parkin

The Yorkshire Dales National Park department is afraid that the narrow, winding, and often hilly A684 road through Wensleydale in the heart of the park, is to be made a primary traffic route linking the A1 with the M6 near Kendal.

The national park officer, Mr R. J. Harvey, says in a report to his committee that people in the Dale have already reported an apparent increase in the number of heavy goods vehicles using part of the route.

If the A684 is made a primary route, an immediate change would be made in A1 and M6 signposts directing traffic through the park from one road to the other.

If this revised signing and other publicity were to encourage more heavy lorries and other vehicles to use the A684, it is possible — in spite of assurances to the contrary by the county surveyors of North Yorkshire and Cumbria — that road improvements would follow, encouraging yet more heavy traffic.

A primary route is defined

as one which the transport secretary regards as the best route between two places of traffic importance. Mr Harvey says he believes that the North Yorkshire county surveyor has already asked a regional working party to make the A684 a primary route, and that the 1985 network map prepared by the Department of Transport will include this recommendation.

All this flies in the face of a circular from the Environment Department stating that roads for long-distance traffic should not be developed in national parks, and that no existing road should be upgraded unless there is a compelling reason and no alternative.

There are options. The A66 Scotch Corner road linking the A1 with the M6 at Penrith, leaves the A1 only 11 miles north of the A684 junction. To the south, the A65 by Skipton offers a link with the M6 just south of Kendal.

The A684 enters the national park west of the village of Wensley and passes through Ayresgarth, Bainbridge, Hawes, and Sedburgh, leaving the park just short of the M6. In places, it is so narrow that two heavy lorries would have difficulty in passing.

Mr Harvey will invite his committee on Thursday to tell the county council's highways committee of its concern that the proposed upgrading could harm the park's special environmental qualities. He will also ask them to seek assurances that no road improvements should be made to accommodate long-distance lorries will be considered.

Home again

A nine-year-old girl who underwent a heart transplant operation at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, in February, was allowed home yesterday. Doctors said the condition of Pamela Owen, of Erisland Walk, Fareham, Hampshire, was most satisfactory.

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Government defeated on bill to axe sources of aid for movie-makers

Lords vote for TV film levy

By Alan Travis and Dennis Barker

THE HOUSE of Lords has dealt the Government a defeat during third reading of the Films Bill and restored the power to charge a levy on television showings of feature films, and on sale of blank and prerecorded video tapes.

The move could substantially increase the money available to the Government to inject into the film industry. Before the Lords amendment, about £2 million a year was to be made available to enhance British film production until 1990.

However, the Government

is expected to reverse the defeat when the bill returns to the Commons for its final stages.

The Films Bill will scrap the already suspended quota system under which cinemas had to show a proportion of British films. It also abolishes the Eady levy on cinema admissions, the British Film Fund Agency, which administers the levy, and the National Film Finance Corporation.

During the third reading on Thursday, an all-party alliance of peers successfully introduced measures regarding a levy on televised feature films and on blank and prerecorded video cassettes by

77 votes to 62. It is believed they are seeking a levy of about £1 per video cassette.

Baroness White (Labour), said that the Government had praised the plumage of the successful British film industry but forgotten the dying bird. "The only way you can keep a flourishing film production industry is by some way of spreading the resources more evenly between different parts of the industry."

Dennis Barker writes: Mr Richard Craven, founder member of the Association of Independent Producers, which has campaigned for a levy on TV screening of cinema films and on blank video

tapes, said yesterday that he was "delighted and thrilled" with the attitude of the Lords.

Mr Craven said that if the Government could produce finance capital even at this late stage, it would do an enormous amount to reverse the trend of British talent going to Hollywood.

"It will encourage the British film industry, which is like a public relations exercise for Britain and British trade."

If the British film industry revived, it would be because the Government followed the principle of governments abroad and legislated to provide finance.

Falkland costs rise by £60m

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

The Government was accused yesterday of concealing a £60 million rise in the costs of the Falklands airport by Mr George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman.

He claimed in a letter to the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, that the Government's estimate is now £430 million, compared with the figure of £370 million given to the Commons two months ago.

The runway is due to be opened next month by Prince Andrew, but there have been reports that the completion of other facilities will be delayed and that civilian flights will not be allowed until mid-1987.

Mr Foulkes asked Mr Heseltine to confirm the latest cost estimates and the expected completion date. He claimed in his letter that one of the reasons for increasing costs was the decision against using fixed price contracts for much of the work.

He said last night: "Only two months ago I was told in the Commons that the cost would be £370 million. Why did the Government not mention this vast increase? Why did it deceive the Commons? It knows that at a time of cuts at home, the never-ending costs of Fortress Falklands are incredibly unpopular with the majority of the people."

Right: Mr George Foulkes — "unpopular policy"



Joseph steps in to save school

By Andrew Mearns, Education Staff

The most modern high school in Staffordshire has been saved from closing by Sir Keith Joseph, it was confirmed yesterday.

The Education Secretary has rejected the county council's plan to close Weston Road High School, Stafford, in 1987. The school was built for £2.75 million, received its first pupils in September, 1979, and produced its first sixth-form leavers last summer.

The closure plan was drawn because of falling school rolls. The education authority argued that it would not be possible to keep open four high schools to serve the town's falling population of 15 to 15-year-olds.

Parents, teachers, and governors objected to the proposal to close Weston Road, which serves the east side of the town and the surrounding rural districts, while the council retained two older schools standing less than a mile apart in west Stafford.

They welcomed Sir Keith's ruling yesterday. "There has been considerable rejoicing," said one Weston Road teacher.

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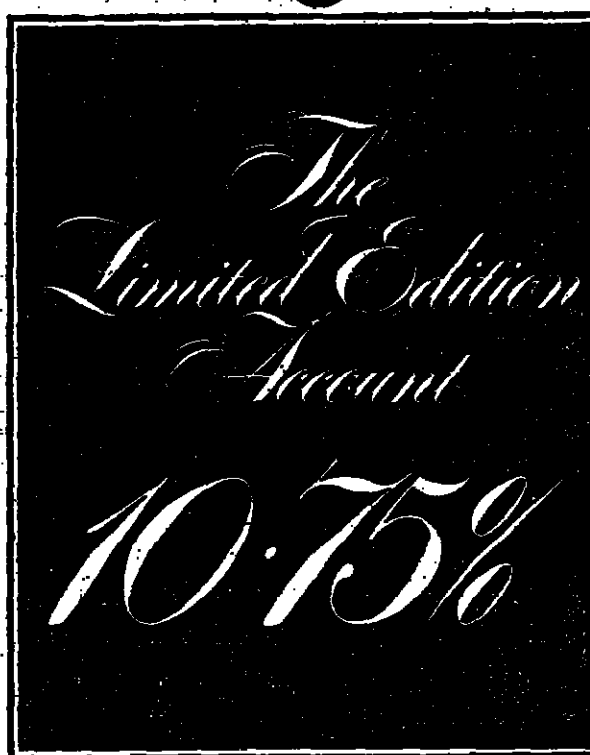
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Post Office reaches the 'deal of the century'

THE AGREEMENT between the Post Office management and union averting the first national postal strike for 14 years, is being hailed by both sides.

Management claims the agreement represents the most important breakthrough this century, while the Union of Communication Workers says that the deal is the best new technology agreement in the country.

Management believes that the agreement, signed on Thursday, will save between £100 million and £180 million annually, with just over half the savings going to the workers in improved bonuses.

The Post Office's aim in the various talks has been to buy out working practices that lead to high costs and overtime, and to bring in labour-saving technology.

The agreement comes in two stages. The first should be implemented in the next fortnight and the second soon after the union's annual conference next month. The conference, starting on May 19, will be asked by the executive to endorse stage one retrospectively. This covers mechanisation, new technology, and an extension of a work measurement scheme.

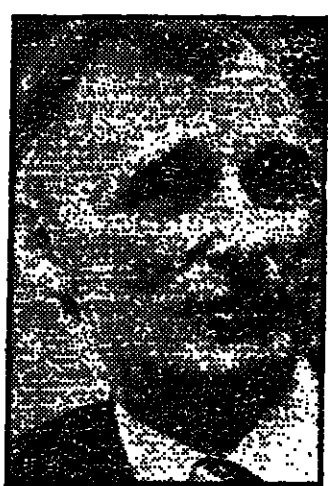
The executive will ask the conference to be given a mandate to negotiate stage two — the introduction of more part time staff and a compulsory productivity scheme.

Under the first stage, the union has conceded three main changes. First, it has agreed to full mechanised letter sorting. For three years the union has blocked the extension of mechanised sorting to cover letters coming into sorting offices and those for distribution to a postman's round.

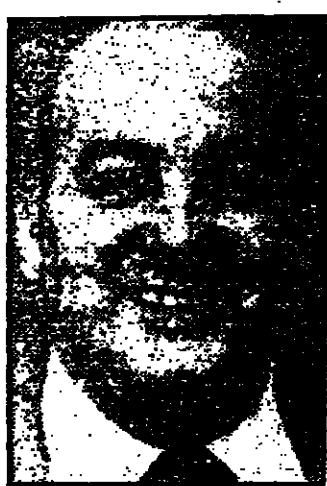
Second, the union has agreed to allow full industrial engineering measurement techniques and new forms of continuous mail traffic measurement. The 1984 Monopolies and Mergers Commission report had concluded that the Post Office's "present productivity measurement techniques are not adequate to provide local, regional, or headquarters management with the information that they require to plan and control the letter post service."

Thirdly, the union has agreed to work new technology, notably the "optical character recognition" machine at Mount Pleasant, central London — a form of electronic sorting. The Post

Management and union hail the agreement on staffing and technology. Patrick Wintour reports



Sir Ronald Dearing (left) and Alan Tiffin: optimistic



Office tried to use it this week without the union's agreement, leading to the 24-hour walkout. Twenty machines will be installed in the next few years and the union has agreed to computerised letter monitoring.

Offices involved directly or indirectly in mechanisation and new technology will receive about 50 per cent of the savings.

In return for agreeing to stage one, every postal worker will receive a £100 lump sum payment. A further £150 payment will be made once savings from stage two start to emerge.

part-time staff — 8,500 part-timers already work for the Post Office — the union's negotiators will seek agreement on their introduction and put that deal to a ballot. Management has said that it will bring in more part-timers with or without agreement, from June 17.

If the conference rejects more part-timers, on the basis that it will signal a casualised and deskilled Post Office, the only consequence can be an all-out strike.

Mr Alan Tiffin, the UCU general secretary, said he would have to call a national strike ballot in line with the Trade Union Act 1984.

The union's conference rejected part-timers by a five to one show of hands three weeks ago, but Mr Tiffin said: "I think they will change their mind when they see the whole offer."

Sir Ronald Dearing, the Post Office chairman, agrees: "We're now convinced that the union's leadership is totally committed to selling part-timers to the conference and that they can deliver."

a scheme, although the union's leadership has negotiated changes to the current voluntary scheme which they believe will make it more palatable to the conference.

The current, four-year-old voluntary scheme covers 55 per cent of staff and allows them to receive 75 per cent of the savings achieved against a target agreed between unions and management.

If a local office was calculated to have 10,000 hours of work a week, unions and management would aim to complete the work within 8,000 hours. The workforce would then receive 70 per cent of the wages saved.

Under the new scheme, offices are not committed to making cuts in the number of hours they work to achieve a bonus. Instead, a bonus can be achieved if the hours stay the same, but the volume of traffic increases.

Managers have agreed that, for three years, savings in administration and transport costs can be included in the bonus calculation.

No guarantee of a reduction of the working week has been given, although the Post Office has agreed to restructure working time to allow more postmen to work a five day week.

'Payola' warning to MPs from Biffen

By Alan Travis

Members of Commons select committees have been warned against accepting finance from private parties with a commercial interest in the independent inquiry.

The warning from Mr John Biffen, the leader of the Commons, followed a demand by Mr Peter Shore, the shadow leader of the House, in the Commons for a code of conduct to be established after a public relations company made an offer to finance an environment select committee trip to Sweden. Mr Shore described the offer of £5,500 as a commercially motivated attempt to influence the work of a select committee.

The company, Political Research and Communication International, offered to contribute to the costs of 11 MPs and officials from the committee to visit Sweden and look at advanced methods of disposing of nuclear waste.

Mr Peter Fry, Conservative MP for Wellingborough, a senior director of the company, has denied any knowledge of the offer. A spokesman of Fry's said that Douglas Smith, a Conservative councillor in Haringey, London, the offer was made on behalf of a client organisation, the Lead Development Association, which wanted to acquire MPs with the Swedish system of nuclear waste disposal, which involves large quantities of lead.

The offer was made a few days after the select committee, chaired by Sir Hugh Rossi, Conservative MP for the House of Commons, had failed to secure Commons funds for the trip.

Mr Biffen said: "It would be appropriate for any select committee conducting an independent inquiry on the House's behalf to accept funding from any interested private party."

Mr Shore said that rules of conduct needed to be fully and properly established.

Pit policing blamed for crime rise

By Michael Morris

The Labour-controlled Greater Manchester police authority has blamed the deployment of policemen to control miners' picket lines for a substantial increase in crime in the area.

In his annual report, the Chief Constable, Mr James Anderton said that police dealt with 20,000 more crimes in 1984 than in the previous year. He made no direct link between the increase and picketing the strike but spoke of the pressure put on police resources because the dispute stretched manpower and financial resources.

Mr Anderton, who has had bitter disputes with his police committee, reported that the crime figures were disappointing. The committee's deputy chairman, Mr Tony Ullman, said yesterday: "It would seem that there is a link between the figures and the deployment of police officers outside the country."

While crime increased greatly during the year, the detection rate decreased. We are sure that part of that has to do with the deployment of resources on the picket lines."

The force lost well over 100,000 officer days because of attendance on picket lines outside the country. At the height of the dispute more than 500 officers a week were deployed in areas including south Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire.

During 1984, 262,600 crimes were recorded in Greater Manchester, with a detection success rate of 27 per cent.

Changes in state vetting powers 'McCarthy-like'

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Union leaders are seeking an urgent meeting with the Government about the decision to widen ministers' powers to suspend civil servants and employees of public and private companies considered to be potential security risks.

Officials in the cabinet office responsible for civil service security were not informed of the decision, which came as a surprise to them, it was revealed yesterday.

Mrs Thatcher announced the significant changes in what is known as the "purge procedures," in a written parliamentary answer on Wednesday night.

Mr Gerry Gillman, the chairman of the Council of Civil Service Unions' main policy committee and general secretary of the Society for Civil and Public Servants, yesterday described the move as a subtle extension of McCarthyism.

The First Division Association, which represents about 8,000 senior civil servants, has already expressed concern to the Government about the extension of positive vetting, which is related to — though separate from — the purge procedures.

Under positive vetting, officials are investigated before they take up posts involving access to classified information and are interviewed at fixed intervals thereafter.

GCHQ staff, for example, have recently been asked about whether they believe Mrs Thatcher is doing a good job as Prime Minister. This has led to fears that, even without express ministerial guidance, investigators are indulging in what amounts to political vetting.

Unions are concerned that the new rules, and broader definition of security risks will mean that union officials — already banned from GCHQ — will now be prevented from negotiating for their members in other government departments.

The new rules will cover people engaged in work "vital to the security of the State." This includes officials in British Telecom, the Atomic Energy Authority, the Post Office, and employees of private companies involved in government contracts, as well as civil servants.

The old rules enabled ministers to suspend members of "fascist or communist" organisations or people considered to be susceptible to pressure from them.

Under the new rules, ministers will be able to suspend anyone who is, or has been, a member of "a subversive group, acknowledged as such by the Minister, whose aims are to undermine or overthrow parliamentary democracy in the United Kingdom . . . by political, industrial or violent means."

Anyone who has been associated with members or sympathisers of such groups, or is susceptible to pressure from them, will also be liable to suspension.

People will be suspected, as one Whitehall official put it yesterday, if they are seen to be consorting with the wrong kind of people. Subversive groups have deliberately not been named because some are very short-lived, and others may change their aims depending on the leadership.

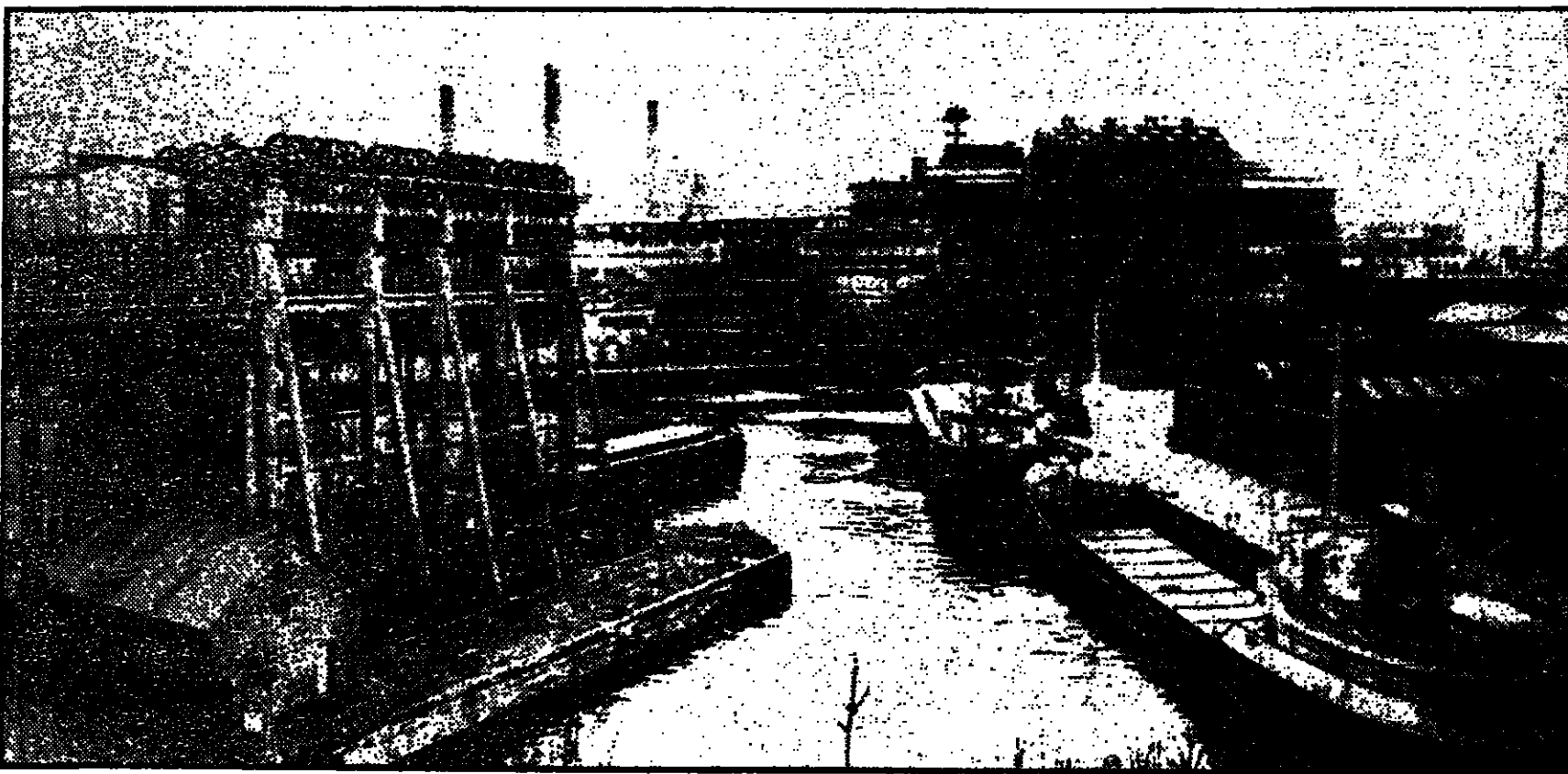
Mrs Thatcher said that the extension of the scope of the purge procedures were made following the 1982 report of the Security Commission, then chaired by Lord Diplock.

The report was drawn up after the political row provoked by Mr Chapman Pincher, the author and journalist, who alleged that Sir Roger Hollis, the director general of MI5 between 1966 and 1985, was a Soviet agent.

The Diplock report noted that character defects, rather than disloyalty for ideological reasons or subversive tendencies, had been the cause of all known cases of disclosure of information to hostile intelligence services in the previous 30 years.

The Security Commission report concentrated on positive vetting procedures, which cover about 45,000 civil servants, and another 20,000 officials in other public bodies. It recommended that fewer, rather than more, posts should be covered by positive vetting.

Under the purge procedures, a panel of three "wise men" advise ministers whether a prima facie case against an employee regarded as a security risk has been substantiated.



THE future of the Anderton lift in Cheshire (above) is in the balance following the discovery of widespread corrosion in its metalwork, writes Geoff Andrews.

The British Waterways Board, which has responsibility for the structure, will be deciding soon whether it can afford the £500,000 cost of renovating the lift and restoring it to use as a link for pleasure craft between the river

Weaver and the Trent and Mersey Canal, 50ft above, or leave it as a non-working museum, which would cut all connections between the river and the canal.

If the lift is saved it will probably be converted from the existing hydraulic mechanism to electricity with the leading capacity limited which would have no effect on recreational use and would maintain its appearance. Picture Don McPhee.

Labour denounces slum valley

By Paul Hoyland

The Welsh Secretary is being urged to investigate a "housing crisis" after a recent survey found that almost half the houses in the Cynon Valley in Mid-Glamorgan were unfit for human habitation.

Mr Barry Jones, the Labour MP for Alyn & Deeside, warned Mr Nicholas Edwards: "There is now a very serious worry among sections of the housing industry that the Welsh Office consistently underestimates the extent of our housing crisis because the information they have on our housing stock is seriously inadequate."

Mr Jones estimated that more homes in Mid-Glamorgan lacked basic amenities than anywhere else in the United Kingdom, but only £52 a head was spent on Welsh housing compared with the British average of £78.

Housing experts feared that the most dismal statistics were not limited to the Cynon Valley. "There is a similar prob-

lem in many of our poorer areas, and with continued lack of investment from the Government this situation is likely to worsen," Mr Jones said.

"What has tamed I find most disturbing is that the Welsh Office seemingly have little

knowledge of the scale of the problem."

In Wales housing authority new starts were down by more than two-thirds compared with 1981-82; repair schemes had been cut and 60,000 approved home improvement grants were outstanding.

The Institute of Environment Health Directors was worried at the declining health standards in South Wales caused by bad housing, Mr Jones claimed: 40 per cent of Welsh housing was built before 1919.

"The Government has implemented policies which the South Wales chief housing officers believe will lead to massive slum clearance programmes within the next 15 years." The officers had called for an £8 billion housing plan for Wales up to the year 2000.

A Welsh Office spokesman said that the Welsh house condition survey conducted every five years was to be extended from county to district level to provide the most detailed assessment next year.



Barry Jones: 'information seriously inadequate'

Kidney units' success 'varies by 40 per cent'

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

Kidney patients could double their chances of a successful transplant by picking the right hospital, it was disclosed yesterday.

Success rates range from 80 per cent to 40 per cent, according to national survey of transplant units by the British Transplantation Society, which was published in the Lancet.

The survey involved seven hospitals in the United Kingdom and one in the Republic of Ireland.

Lack of staff — particularly doctors — with specialist training in transplants is identified as an important factor in the units with low success rates, according to the report published in the Lancet.

The two other most important factors were pre-operative blood transfusions — which apparently reduce the body's ability to reject the new organ — and the use of the anti-rejection drug, cyclosporin.

The investigation was carried out for the British Transplantation Society by Mr Ross Taylor, the transplant surgeon at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne; Dr Alan Ting, immunologist at

the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford; and Dr Douglas Briggs, consultant physician at Glasgow's Western Infirmary.

The data was collected three years ago, and it took the society two years to agree to publish the results, it emerged yesterday.

In the best units, 80 per cent of the transplanted kidneys survived for a year, compared with only 40 per cent in the least successful, the survey show.

The aim of the survey was to identify possible improvements, the society's president, Mr Robert Sells, said yesterday.

"We have made changes and these are now being reflected in considerably improved results," he added.

"We would like to repeat the study to monitor the effects of the changes. The eight units investigated are anonymous because it would be invidious to single them out," said Mr Sells, director of the kidney transplant unit at the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

A record 1,415 kidney transplants were performed last year, but 2,650 people dying of kidney failure are on the waiting list.

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Democrat fight expected on domestic spending

President in pact with senators to cut budget deficit

President Reagan, after an all-night session between White House and Congressional staff, has reached a budget agreement with Republican senators that will limit social security increases and freeze federal wages. The Star Wars programme has been trimmed.

From Michael White in Washington

President Reagan has been forced to trim \$9.9 billion from his 1986 defence budget to reach agreement with the critical Republican leadership in the Senate.

The main burden of the latest efforts to cut \$52 billion from the huge budget deficit will still be borne by domestic spending programmes so the fight with the Democrats will go on.

The powerful Senate Armed Services Committee, chaired by Senator Barry Goldwater, agreed to cut a similar sum from the \$53 billion Pentagon budget which included only a modest \$300 million off the vastly expanded next year for research into the Strategic Defence Initiative, or Star Wars.

The next batch of MX missiles would be cut from 48 to 21.

The committee also stirred controversy by agreeing to spend \$165 million producing new chemical weapons, something Congress has rejected three years running.

The agreement patched up after all-night sessions between White House and Congressional staff, and endorsed by the President of the Senate majority leader, Mr Bob Dole.

Mr Dole said the deal would limit social security increases to 3% in each of the next three years — unless

inflation exceeds the expected 4 per cent.

It will abolish federal subsidies to passenger railway services, rural electrification, and the small business administration while freezing federal wages.

The President had wanted a 5 per cent cut and trimming programmes such as Medicare.

Aid for the stricken farmers has been increased, though not by enough to placate the Congressional supporters. Some 17 programmes would be abolished and 30 cut — some 90 per cent of what Mr Reagan originally asked for.

For both sides in the talks, it represents compromise. The President had wanted the Pentagon to get 6 per cent on top of inflation and has been forced to settle for only 3 per cent.

Senator Dole and his allies desperate to find savings, the President's advisers are able to claim that the cuts will not hit any main weapons programmes — a priority which critics of weaponsed defence system especially deplore.

The Armed Services Committee votes also included \$300 million from anti-satellite weapons development funds for the 48 B-1 bombers and development of the stealth bomber. A three per cent military pay rise was delayed six months, but an attempt by Senator Carl Levin to cut Star Wars research by \$1.4 billion failed.

With barely a day passing without fresh revelations of prodigality or worse among key Pentagon contractors, many of the Defence Department's critics believe that it can still be beaten down to an inflation-only increase. As things stand, the President's advisers are able to claim that the cuts will not hit any main weapons programmes — a priority which critics of weaponsed defence system especially deplore.

The overall target of reducing the \$220 billion deficit by half over three years, has, according to official figures at least, been met. The \$22 billion saving in 1986 will be followed by \$99.5 billion in 1987 and \$143.3 billion in 1988, making a cumulative saving of \$300 billion and a 1988 budget deficit of \$99.7 billion — all without raising overall taxes, something which the President is pledged not to do.

Although Mr Reagan has moved on defence, his critics were quick to spot that he has not moved far. Some \$69 billion will be taken for the rapidly expanding Pentagon programmes for 1986-88, compared with more than \$150 billion from domestic programmes which were already under pressure.

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Mulroney Athens keeps its head as temperatures rise

People asked to 'stand behind Constitution'

From Campbell Page in Athens

THE political temperature here is high, but not yet feverish.

In Athens yesterday, a huge placard party blocked the view of Parliament from the main square. The message was "the people stand behind the Constitution."

Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the leader of the Opposition party, New Democracy, was to address a meeting last night on the subject and the dangers of continued rule by the Socialist party, Pasok, and the Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu.

In the last week, there has been sparring. Mr Papandreu has denied that his party intend to seize private property, or confiscate farmers' donkeys.

Mr Mitsotakis has denounced state television as fascist for its previous failure to give the Opposition a fair showing.

The serious issue is whether decent relations between Government and Opposition have been damaged beyond repair by recent events. These followed Mr Papandreu's unexpected decision to ditch the conservative President, Mr Constantine Karamanlis, who was seen as an important restraining influence on Pasok, and back instead the former Supreme Court judge, Mr Christos Saratzakis.

Because Mr Saratzakis was approved in parliament with the use of the acting president's vote and with the introduction of coloured ballot papers, which threatened the secrecy of the voting, New Democracy decided not to recognise the new president.

In most people's judgment, the two New Democracy prime ministers since the collapse of the military regime, Mr Karamanlis and Mr George Rallis, were careful to establish and maintain the rules of the parliamentary game. In an interview, Mr Rallis said that he was worried by the present mood. "When I was a minister under Mr Karamanlis and when I was prime minister there was no hatred."

Mr Rallis, who yielded power to Mr Papandreu at the 1981 general election in the most impeccable way, emphasised that being a democrat meant accepting the prospect of defeat as well as victory.

Mr Papandreu, he thought, was "obsessed by the idea that he should be elected for a second, four-year term."

In Greek politics, flashbacks are as important as the foreground. Older voters remember the dead-end and decline in political life in the year before the colonels launched their successful coup in April 1967, and they hope that there will be no return to instability.

Politicians remember their own and their rivals' long political biographies. The period of authoritarian rule from 1967 to 1974 gave the pre-coup politicians time to reflect on their careers and also left them with a sense of resignation when the military regime fell.

In 1965, the present leaders of Pasok and New Democracy served in the same Centre Union government led by Papandreu's father. When they were dismissed that government in a row about the defence ministry, Mr Mitsotakis and his colleagues broke away and created a new majority with the conservative party, ERE. Almost 20 years later, when Mr Mitsotakis was elected leader of New Democracy, Mr Papandreu denounced him in

highly unparliamentary language as a traitor.

Mr Karamanlis was prime minister in 1963 when leaving deputy, Gregory Lambrakis, was mysteriously run down and killed by a motorcycle. Mr Karamanlis's successor as Prime Minister was the young magistrate who made his name by a determined investigation of Lambrakis's death.

No official collusion was ever proved, but the fact that it happened under his prime ministership encouraged Mr Karamanlis's decision to resign and spend the next 11 years in self-imposed exile in France.

While democracy was suspended between 1974 and 1974, students and scholars re-examined modern Greek history, often from a Marxist or neo-Marxist point of view. Their analyses were usually cynical and illuminating, but they tended to categorise the right as wholly evil and the forces which challenged the right as wholly good.

There was little room for nuance or occasional acts of reality. These views still influence the ideologically committed in Pasok and leave little room for the tolerance which

changes parliamentary life.

When political tension rises, there is no self-denying ordinance or statute of limitations on memories of what happened before democracy collapsed in 1967.

Mr Papandreu himself, at a press conference a few days ago, said that the right, or royalist, had monopolised the role of head of state since the 1930s. "This is the first time for 50 years that what we call the democratic forces, whether others like it or not, have had the opportunity to elect a president."

He also compared jokingly the 200 million drachmas allegedly available for the attempted bribery of an MP in the presidential voting with the going rate of only one million drachmas 20 years ago.

At the same time, Mr Papandreu said the Opposition believes, generally adopted a milder tone in the past week. As New Democracy pressed for instant elections with the slogan "Let the people decide," Mr Papandreu announced on Wednesday that he would be asking for the dissolution of the next day.

The Opposition's meeting last night then became the first rally of an extended election campaign, instead of a call for early elections.

THE prime suspect in the abduction and murder of a US anti-drugs agent was arrested in San Jose, Costa Rica, the official Mexican news agency Notimex said. Rafael Caro Quintero was arrested in a raid with five other people and a woman who said she was being held hostage. The agency said, quoting the Costa Rican Security Minister, Mr Benjamin Piza: "Reuter."

THE former car maker, Mr John De Lorean, has signed a \$2 million deal with a new movie company for the exclusive rights to his film biography, the Los Angeles Times reported yesterday. De Lorean, acquitted last August of charges that he conspired to traffic in cocaine in an effort to save his Northern Ireland car company, signed the deal with the De Lorean Plus film group, the newspaper said. — AP.

THE British singer, Andy Gibb, whose three older brothers make up the Bee Gees, has entered the Betty Ford Centre for treatment for a cocaine problem, a press agent said in Los Angeles yesterday. Mr Gibb, 27, said in 1983 that he turned to cocaine after he and actress Victoria Principal, of the television series Dallas, had a long relationship. But he later stopped taking drugs. — Reuter.

HUNGARIAN cultural figures and Writers' Union officials are asking President Pal Losonczi to pardon a film producer on a pornography charge, discredited sources said in Vienna yesterday. The producer, Mr Rezo Forgacs, was convicted of pornography for his stage reading last year of Ezra Pound's Cantos in a south Hungarian village. — Reuter.

PRESIDENT Pertini, of Italy, has turned down a hefty pay rise for himself by deferring the increase until after his seven-year term ends in July, the President's office said. — Reuter.

WOMEN whose mothers or sisters had breast cancer are more than twice as likely to develop the disease as women with no family history of breast cancer, according to a study published yesterday. The study, by the US Centers for Disease Control, found that those whose mothers or grandmothers had breast cancer were 1.5 times more likely to get the disease than those with no family history.

A CHOLERA outbreak has killed some 1,000 people in north-western Somalia, and up to 300,000 others risk contracting the disease, the Red Cross said in Geneva yesterday. Some 1,000 people — Ethiopian refugees fleeing drought and Somalia's living in or near Harar city — have died. — AP.

THE Indian Government has rejected a \$200-million offer by Union Carbide for an out-of-court settlement on compensation for victims of the Bhopal gas disaster, the Telegraph newspaper reported in Calcutta. The Prime Minister, Mr Indira Gandhi, has confirmed earlier that India had rejected an offer by the US company, but he did not disclose the amount. The offer was made in New Delhi by the US company's vice-president and treasurer, Mr Rolf Towe. — AP.

THE failure to clinch an agreement this week did not dismay the Indian Affairs Minister, Mr David Crombie, who commented: "We are on the cutting edge of talks about aboriginal rights to self-government."

For their part, the Assembly of First Nations leaders are opposed to the process of negotiating primarily with the Western premiers of British Columbia and Alberta, whose interests often conflict with theirs. However shameful the conditions are in some Indian reserves, they have this land base from ancient treaties on which to build different forms of self-government.

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Rocard defends decision to quit

Paris: Mr Michael Rocard, whose resignation as agriculture minister has thrown French politics into turmoil, said yesterday that he left because electoral reform plans threatened political stability.

Writing in the newspaper Le Monde, Mr Rocard said that he had always opposed proportional representation and could not accept President Francois Mitterrand's decision to adopt it before parliamentary polls next year.

It is normal that a government be united and since I cannot be united with this decision, I have chosen to resign," Mr Rocard, one of France's most popular politicians and a long-time rival of Mr Mitterrand, said.

He said plans to end more than 25 years of a majority system in favour of proportional representation by department threatened to emasculate the presidency. Fragmented parties would make candidates less accountable to voters.

"These are the reasons which prevent me from approving a reform which I judge dangerous for the stability of institutions and therefore for the general interests of France," he said.

The Government announced the reforms, the first since the foundation of the Fifth Republic in 1958, on Wednesday, saying they would create a more just and equal system.

Mr Rocard's criticism adds to a chorus of protest by opposition politicians, who accuse the Socialists of cynical manoeuvring aimed at preserving seats in next year's elections.

Analysts said that the resignation of Mr Rocard, aged 44, who heads the right-wing faction of the Socialist Party, is a serious setback to the Government, which faces a tough uphill battle in the months before the 1986 elections.

Mr Rocard defended his departure, which has been described as a stab in the back by the Socialist Party, as an act of conscience. "There is a single motive which dominates all others... and that is fidelity to one's principles," he said. — Reuter.

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Abortion picket violence inquiry

From Robert Jackson in Washington

The Justice Department is investigating an incident in which an off-duty policeman allegedly pushed and injured a woman while he was picketing an abortion clinic in New York.

But a department spokesman

OVERSEAS NEWS

External communications cut
as rebels 'talk with army'

Sudan strike enters third day amid new protests

From Kathryn Davies in Cairo

Reports filtering out of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, yesterday indicated that the general strike by the country's key workers, including engineers and doctors, was continuing for the third day.

Power cuts and food shortages were more acute and Egyptian officials confirmed that Sudanese airspace had been closed to all traffic. The country's telegraph and telephone lines remained cut, and fresh anti-government demonstrations took place.

The rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) claimed yesterday that President Jassaf Numeiri may be smuggled back into Sudan.

CONCERN was growing last night for a British pilot and his engineer feared trapped in Khartoum. Foreign Office staff made urgent inquiries to track down Mr Nigel Humphries, aged 33, and Mr Gordon Stewart, who had been due to fly back to Britain yesterday. They had spent two months with the Save the Children Fund.

from the US to rally support. President Numeiri was originally expected in Cairo this weekend for talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

SPLA radio also said that the rebels had begun secret talks with the Sudanese army. The radio station said contacts with the army had begun in response to a call by the rebel leader, Colonel John Garang, for removal of President Numeiri as a condition for talks to end the guerrilla war. The SPLA says it is fighting a struggle for the whole of Sudan and is not a secessionist movement.

Mr Numeiri appointed himself Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces in 1982 after signs of growing dissatisfaction with the prosecution of the war in the south.

Numeiri cuts visit short to hurry home

From Michael White in Washington

President Jassaf Numeiri of Sudan yesterday cut short his visit here and prepared to return to the worsening internal crisis at home.

Before doing so, he had a morning meeting with the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, a day after a session with the Vice-President Mr George Bush.

The State Department assisted in dignifying the President's rapid departure by emphasising that his visit, billed as a private one, had been open-ended and that the annual medical tests for which he had come here had been completed earlier than planned.

At the same time, the American secret service confirmed that it had been investigating threats to Mr Numeiri made in telephone calls to the Sudanese Embassy in Washington.

State Department officials yesterday made clear their concern about the "confused and dangerous" turn of events in Sudan, including the expulsion of at least one US correspondent, Mr Jonathan Randall of the Washington Post.

His published dispatch yesterday described the demonstrations in Khartoum the previous day as "mostly middle-class and middle-aged and rather a good-natured game of cat-and-mouse with the well-organised loyalist elements of the riot police. The State Department yesterday described the capital as "calm and under tight security."

President Numeiri arrived here on March 28 for what was previously described as a 10- or 16-day visit. A spokesman at the Sudanese embassy here has denied a report in a London-based Arab newspaper that he was returning home today.

The president was going on to Egypt and Pakistan, he was quoted as saying, but yesterday afternoon embassy spokesmen were no longer available.

Khartoum swept by peaceful protest

In one of the first reports from Khartoum to reach London, Ed Hooper describes the growing tide of resentment that now affects every section of the Sudanese people.

THE AIR of rebellion swept through Khartoum on Wednesday as a march by professional associations turned into public rejection of President Ga'afar Numeiri's regime.

By 8.30 am, more than 500 doctors had congregated with their banners at the Khartoum teaching hospital. Security men tried to lock them in the grounds, but several managed to escape through a back exit to join the throng outside the faculty building.

By 9 am, there were more than 5,000 in Al Qasr, the main north-south road that runs from the railway station past the medical faculty to the People's Palace facing the Nile.

The plan was to begin the march down Al Qasr at 10 am and to present a set of demands to the authorities in the palace. The principal demand was that President Numeiri and his government stand down and allow the people to choose a new government.

Lines of riot police began firing teargas into the crowd just after 9 am. The police pushed four lines around the Meridien hotel with sections of the crowd facing them on three sides. "Freedom needs more blood to grow," they chanted.

A section of the crowd started walking around the police lines into the centre of the cordon, but they were driven back when half-a-dozen teargas shells landed among them.

Further crowds were gathering in the market area, by the railway station, and in the main east-west street of Al Gumbura. Different parts of the crowd began moving towards each other in an attempt to converge on the People's Palace, where President Numeiri has his offices, but troops sealed off the surrounding area.

The police and army responded with discipline and restraint. Only when they appeared to be in danger of losing their positions did they retaliate with teargas.

By 10.30, with demonstrators occupying one side of the main market, the Suq-al-Arabi, beggars and hawkers were still playing their trade 100 yards away. The demonstrators numbered up to 15,000 and were moving in all directions through the city centre.

The security forces were clearly unwilling to fire on demonstrators. By noon, a large crowd had moved down Al Gumbura towards a passive line of riot police who carried round, wicker shields. Several demonstrators held flags of black, yellow, and green, the emblem of Sudan before President Numeiri seized power in May 1989. A chant went up of "Be the people" as two or three riot police were lifted on to the shoulders of the crowd. They raised their guns in the air in a gesture of support.

People shouted "one million martyrs for a new regime." At 11 am, the judiciary declared a civil rebellion. Troops apparently sealed off the bridges over the Nile from Khartoum north and Omdurman to prevent other demonstrators from reaching the capital.



Filipino plays out Passion for real

MANILA: Donald Rexford (Above) had himself nailed to a cross in a Good Friday reenactment of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ when he did it as a gesture of gratitude for an expected reunion with his American father.

"It's my way of thanks," Mr Rexford, aged 38, said after four-inch stainless steel nails were driven into his palms.

He began the annual ritual five years ago, vowing to continue it until he was reunited with his father, Mr Donald Rexford, a Second World War soldier who now lives in Pontiac, Michigan.

A visiting doctor told him in February that his father was sending for him, and Mr Rexford said this year's reenactment will be his last.

Two men bathed his hands with alcohol and drove two sterilized nails simultaneously into his palms with hammers. He grimaced.

"Oh my God, forgive me, forgive us all," Mr Rexford cried as he was hoisted for seven seconds on his cross and turned around twice before 1,000 spectators at a basketball court in the Manila suburb of Mandaluyong.

"It's OK," he said afterwards, on his way to Manila Bay where he customarily bathes following the reenactment.

Earlier, thousands of people watched as Mr Rexford, wearing a maroon robe and a coiled vine symbolising Jesus' crown of thorns, dragged a black wooden cross during an eight-hour trek from another suburb.

A dozen men dressed as Roman centurions shouted "death on the cross" as they beat Mr Rexford with whips made of strips of rubber.

Adults perched on rooftops and children mobbed the group as it passed the house where Mr Rexford, a construction worker, and his family lives.

Mr Rexford said he planned to stay in the US for about a month. — AP.

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Japanese submit to ban on whaling

From Robert Whyman in Tokyo

Japan is to end commercial whaling in 1993, after strong pressure from the US, the Government announced yesterday.

Japanese ministers decided to abide by a moratorium on commercial whaling agreed by the International Whaling Commission, after considering a threat by the US to halve Japan's fishing quotas in its 200-mile economic zone. The moratorium was agreed in 1982, but Japan, along with the Soviet Union and Norway, objected to it.

Under the International Whaling Convention, since an objection released Japan from its obligation to observe the moratorium. But the US, pressed by conservationist groups, has been pushing Japan to give up commercial whaling. A domestic US law calls for action against any country which does not heed the moratorium.

Japanese ministers, in reaching their decision, took account of the value of fishing catches in American waters, which is up to 10 times the value of the whales caught.

An official of Japan's fisheries agency said: "We still hope in the near future there'll be a movement to abolish the unreasonable 'Packer's Amendment' amendment," referring to the US law which calls for sanctions against countries that do not abide by the whaling ban.

Japan's whaling catch is estimated at 13.5 billion yen (£50 million) annually.

Japanese whalers caught 218,000 tonnes of whale meat in 1992 but less than 20,000 tonnes last year.

Bellicose Sharon hits back at the critics of invasion

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Israeli minister of defence and architect of the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, hit back at his critics yesterday and said that any commission of inquiry into the invasion would also have to examine the conduct of the Opposition at the time.

In an interview with the Hebrew daily, Hadashot — seen here at its opening shot for the leadership of Likud — Mr Sharon, now Minister of Trade and Industry in the coalition Government, said that he had urged a big reduction of Israeli forces in Lebanon more than a year ago, and a troop withdrawal from the heavily populated Shiite Muslim areas where resistance to the retreating Israelis is now at its strongest.

Mr Sharon, who was forced to resign as defence minister after the official inquiry into the Sabra and Chatila massacre of Palestinians by Israel's Lebanese Phalangist allies in September 1982, said it was too easy to blame him and the former Likud prime minister, Mr Menachem Begin, for the failures of the war.

As casualties have risen in recent weeks and the full extent of Israel's Lebanese entanglement dawned on the public, Mr Sharon has come under heavy attack for his role in the planning and execution of the war, although he is said to have reluctantly accepted that there is now a majority in the cabinet for withdrawing as fast as possible to the international frontier.

He reiterated in the interview his belief that after the pullback Israel should retain a security belt far into Lebanese territory along the Awali river — a prescription, one news paper here commented this week, "for the permanent occupation of a large part of southern Lebanon, thinly disguised as an innocent protective device."

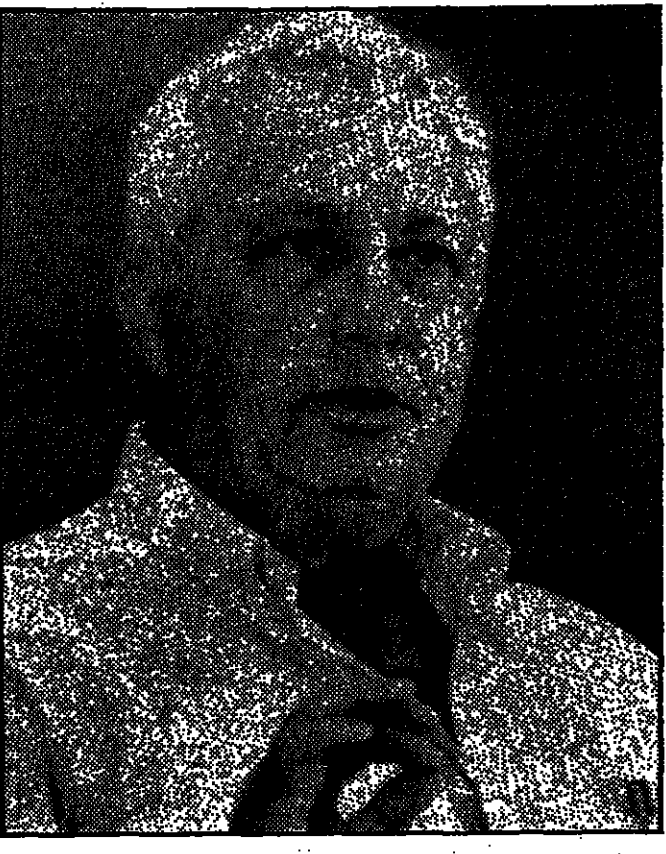
The former Labour foreign minister, Mr Abba Eban, has said that Mr Sharon is like a man who has had seven car accidents and then tries to open a driving school.

Mr Zeev Schiff and Mr Ehud Ya'ari, the authors of a best-selling study of the war, say Mr Sharon hoodwinked the then Likud government into decisions that suited his personal aim of creating a new Christian-dominated order in Lebanon, and sacrificed many lives in the process.

Mr Sharon said: "Mr Begin and his government, and I as a member of that government, did not have and still do not have anything to hide. I am not afraid of commissions of inquiry."

● The UN Under Secretary General, Mr Brian Urquhart, yesterday met Israel's present Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin. It was reportedly agreed that Israel would not oppose the Lebanese request for a six-month extension of the mandate for the UN Trucekeeping force in south Lebanon.

An Israeli soldier was injured near the Qusma bridge in south Lebanon yesterday when a remote-controlled roadside bomb went off near a foot patrol. There were three other guerrilla attacks on Israeli and South Lebanon Army positions in the occupied area.



Mr Sharon: 'We did not have and still do not have anything to hide'

Shultz may visit Arab capitals

From Mark Tran in Washington

The US is considering stepping up its diplomatic efforts in the Middle East. According to the New York Times, the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, is planning to visit Arab capitals next month if a visit by the state department's Middle East expert Mr Richard Murphy, bears fruit first.

Mr Shultz, who will accompany President Reagan to Western Europe in early May, is already due to visit Israel on May 10 to attend ceremonies at the Yad Vashem memorial to Jewish victims of the Nazis.

He was originally to return directly to Europe for talks in Vienna on May 14 with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, and to take part in ceremonies marking the 30th anniversary of the post-war independence of Austria. But now he may visit Cairo and Amman and perhaps other Middle East capitals before going to Vienna.

His mission would be to see if he can push forward the chances for direct talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which would not include PLO members.

If Mr Shultz steps personally into Middle East diplomacy, it will mark a shift in American policy. Until now the US has preferred to leave the parties in the region to make their own moves. Despite vigorous prodding from President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan, the US wanted to wait for further movement before getting more involved.

The US is cool about the idea of a meeting in Washington between American officials and a joint delegation as suggested by President Mubarak and King Hussein — unless it leads to direct talks with Israel. The US is also sticking to its position of not dealing with the PLO unless it explicitly recognises Israel's right to exist as well as UN security council resolutions 242 and 338.

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Save the Children's on-the-spot workers are already feeding many thousands of children and giving them invaluable medical aid.

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Save the Children Sudan Refugee Appeal

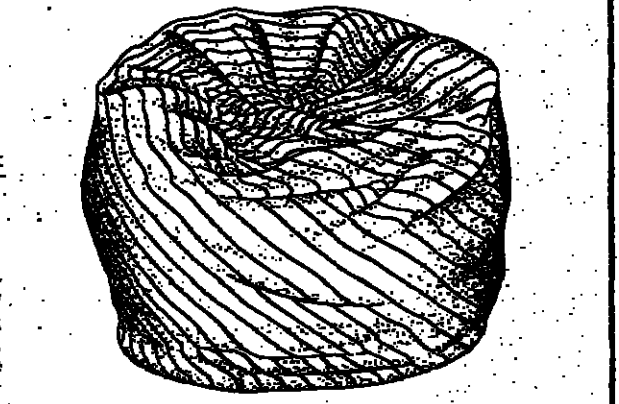
I want to help and enclose £.....
Or debit my Access/Bardycard account No.....
Or you can send through National Giro No. 517 3000

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Name.....
Address.....

To: The Save the Children Fund, Dept. 523114,
17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8DU.

Thank you.

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Pretoria to use army

From Barry Street in Capetown

The Government yesterday spelt out a new strategy, involving the police, army, and railway police, to contain unrest.

The deputy minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, said that the three security services would combine so that "law and order" could be restored in areas affected and to maintain internal safety.

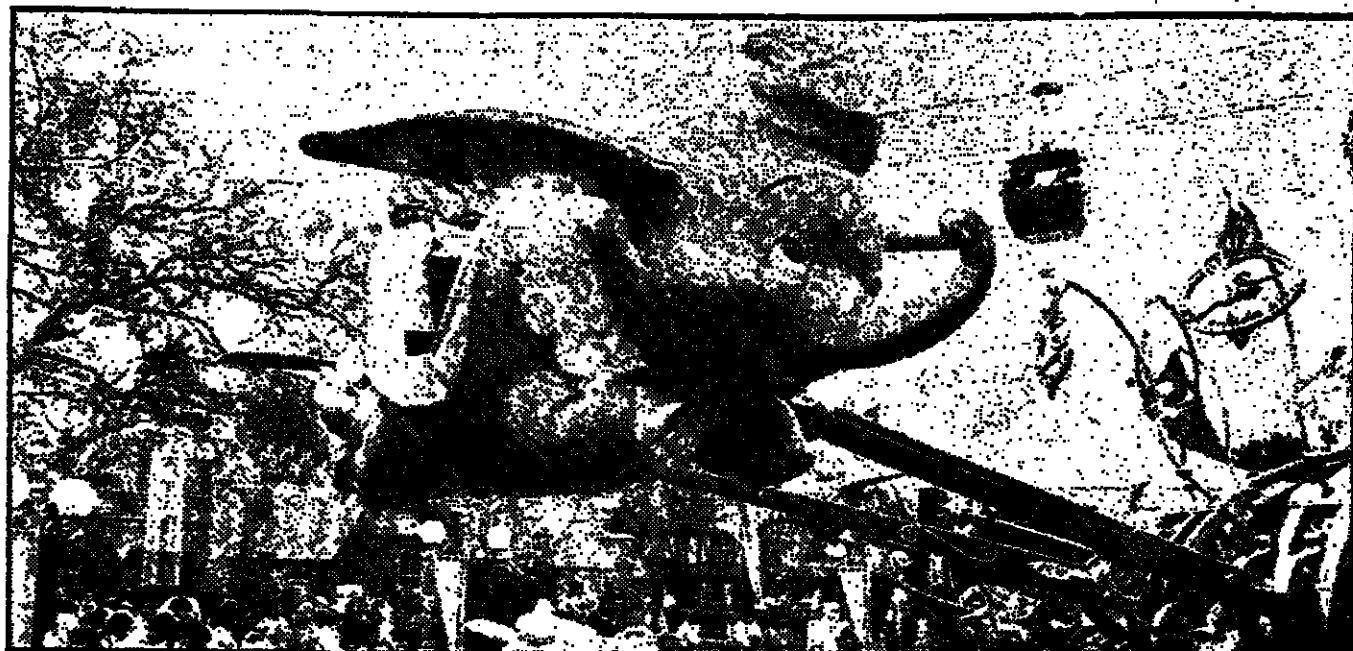
The country's Defence Force would be used to support the police in incidents such as roadblocks, cordons, protection, and escort duties. But the Defence Force would not be involved in "normal policing duties."

Mr Vlok also said that "radical revolutionary practices of intimidation and even murder of law abiding citizens, especially the use of the black communities, who have indicated a willingness to go ahead with the Government reform initiative — will under all circumstances be combated."

At a graduation ceremony at the University of Pretoria, the head of the police, General P. J. Coetzee, said that South Africa was experiencing a unique type of uprising not experienced anywhere else in the world.

In Easter violence, two people were killed in the Bantwana Cape yesterday, one by police, when they opened fire on a group of 200 people who, the police said, were preventing a fire engine working in Soweto, near Johannesburg.

There were also incidents of arson in the Orange Free State.



Left: Dumbo takes to the air.
Right: Goofing it up with the children.
Below: Stirring cuppa
Pictures by Alex Hamilton



In its 30th year, the first Disneyland welcomed Alex Hamilton as its 242,186,628th visitor

Not really so Mickey Mouse

AN UMBILICAL monorail connects the Disneyland Hotel with Walt's Magic Kingdom in California. All three in their 30th year are doing remarkable business, not to mention those who sit on the sidelines and bank in the financial fall-out, such as the woman who owned the 107 acres of car park, and conceded the land in return for 20 per cent of the parking fee of every vehicle.

"Daddy, who invented Walt Disney?" asked a child in the hotel elevator. "Don't ask, son, that way madness lies," replied his sire, as they stepped out at the tenth. My theory is that it was Howard Hughes, whose enormous flying boat Spruce Goose sits under a geodesic dome like a dinosaur's egg alongside the Queen Mary, owned by the same company, a bus excursion away.

If so, it was his best invention, if not the most fantastic. I took the monorail and was the 242,186,628th person to negotiate the turnstiles into the Kingdom. Not a very good number, as it happened. Had it been divisible by 30 I would have won a little something, if by 300 a slightly bigger something and so on until, if 300,000 were a factor, they'd have pressed a Cadillac on me. What will the 300,000,000th visitor get? Don't ask, son, that way madness lies.

But whether it's a facsimile of the Nautilus, a rocket to Mars — or even the Spruce Goose — there's no more than a one-in-five chance that

they'll be pushing the driving seat forward to accommodate a minor. At 30, Disneyland is gradually catching up with the average age of its customers, who included, on the day I was there, many Sisters of Mercy, a good portion of the wardrobe of a Peruvian warship, in uniform, and some members of the National Association of Medical Equipment Suppliers playing truant from their convention at the Disneyland Hotel. The Peruvian Navy were almost the only people not wearing Mickey Mouse ears though, and I'm not at all sure the nuns were an exception either.

I passed under the railway arch that carries the steam train on its circuit of the park. This is a useful trip to take straight away to size up the whole ecology, and how long it will take you to get from one prime target to another, to see that the sickening ride through the darkness on the Space Mountain roller coaster in Tomorrowland is only a chunder's throw from the Primeval World, that you can sweep straight down the Matterhorn and queue for a submarine, or step off the Mark Twain steamboat to ask for milk in a dirty glass at the Golden Horseshoe Revue.

But, distracted from distraction by distraction (as the poet said) I was diverted from this excellent plan first by a robot acting out great moments in the life of Mr Lincoln, and then by the smoothness of the operation of the

Bank of America in giving dollars for every sort of foreign currency, volunteered in very complicated deals by crowds of children, and next by an encounter with a Disney employee. This was not one of those Goofies or Mickey Mouse characters who cuddle you on request, and sometimes without, but a serious young man in civvies with a clipboard.

His task was to get punters to put a value, from one to ten, on 60 aspects of the attractions for tourists of a dozen European countries. This unusually demanding exercise in judgment, which would eventually join thousands of others in helping Disneyworld decide where to locate a fourth Disneyland, after Anaheim, Florida and Tokyo, took much of the morning.

The rule for lunch is that you should not take it in with you, but either opt for fast foods at one of many counters, with tubs of crushed ice flavoured with soft drink, or take the monorail back to the Hotel, where there are 16 restaurants to choose from.

If you do this you will get back in free, because an eerily iridescent and indelible mark is stamped on your hand. But there is a snag. Convention business competes with the claims of children. I heard one delegate say: "Some of these resorts cater to an excessive number of kids, but Disneyland last summer really was over the top." You may have to wait in

line a long time for a table.

On that cold day last month there were 20,000 in the park on Sunday 60,000 went. To go merely by the general mood, they were getting their money's worth from the immense spread of pop-up rococo, of booths and arcades and ice cream parlours, of carousels and animations, goes in cars and boats and ferries and, when it comes to thrills, the most innocuous looking may turn out the most alarming, like the ride in a giant teacup, which rotates like a spin-dryer, even while being flung about among others on an erratic trajectory.

If you go down Main Street, or gulch of the fair, with its peepshows and one-reelers from the silent days, leaving acres of Mark Twain corn for later on one side, and acres of space infinity on the other, and go under the portcullis of the Sleeping Beauty Castle, you reach Walt's vital organs: Fantasyland, which harbours Snow White, Pinocchio, Mr Toad, Dumbo, and all those glutinous secretions.

All day long in each of them the cars on rails follow one another round and round with their cargoes of kids and/or adults on rides through the elaborate galleries, of vivid lighting and false voices. After the distant and disparaging tone adopted by guidebooks, it comes as a surprise to recognise the brilliant technical virtuosity with which a glamour is cast on children. No pantomime theatre, for instance, can compete with the illusion

created by Peter Pan's flight as the winterbound town dwindles away below.

Not every illusion is 100 per cent sustained. When, for instance, in Frontierland, the Mark Twain steamboat comes round a bend by Tom Sawyer Island and a voice suggests to passengers that if they're quiet they may see a deer, the sight of that dummy on the bank champing its jaw and flexing its tail may give even the smallest child a sudden twinge of unreality.

On the other hand, for total suspension of disbelief, the jamboree in Bear Country beats all. When the band of dummy bears has played a set, it gets a great round of applause.

It makes a good day out, whether for business persons attending a convention at the Disneyland Hotel or tourists using (for choice) the recently issued American Express brochure — or indeed for a child of either. You may suspect, with good reason, that it costs a dollar to blink in the States at present, but the day may come when we get two blinks for a dollar. If that never happens, depend on them buying Carmarthen Castle or Windsor Great Park, or Fort Mead, or in Oxford, to build Disneyland here, though France and Spain are just ahead in the queue, and a decision between them is expected very soon.

Alex Hamilton flew to Los Angeles as a guest of British Caledonian.



Which way to the tuck shop? From small beginnings holiday camps for children have developed into a huge business. Susan Grossman surveys the options

"LAZY PEOPLE wouldn't like this at all," said 11-year-old Martin as he and his friends walked up a 40ft cliff in Wales. If his parents could have seen him then, they'd probably have had a fit. As it was, he was in perfectly safe hands, and as well as acquiring a difficult new skill, was having the time of his life.

There are residential "activity" holidays for unaccompanied children from five upwards in every corner of Britain, and a large number of them offer abseiling as well as every conceivable sport from grass-skiing to soccer camps, orienteering to canoeing, plus all sorts of other subjects from video-film making to computer camps.

The beauty of these "camps" is that your children don't have to know anything about the subject beforehand and can, in fact, opt for doing three or four different things in any one day. If they do

have a subject they want to "learn" more intensively they can do that too. All you have to do is to choose your holiday centre carefully.

Children's unaccompanied holidays are big business. PGL alone take some 65,000 children each year. How do you make sure that they'll be properly supervised, especially if they're young and haven't been away from home before, let alone jumped off a cliff backwards?

The answer is to read the brochures very carefully and if they don't answer all your questions, phone the holiday company direct.

We've gathered details from 15 holiday centres offering a wide choice of things to do. All have satisfactory high standards of safety but you should check for yourself, if your child is going in for a specific sport, whether the teacher and/or the centre is approved by the relevant sporting authority (Royal

Yachting Association, British Canoe Union etc).

Where you can go wrong is to send a child with little interest in the subject to a centre that subjects him to it for eight hours a day. You'd also be ill-advised (and most centres won't take him) to send a child who can only just swim on a canoeing or yachting course.

The day's activities for all of them are highly organised. All equipment is provided: they should get three square meals a day; and the evenings are usually spent watching videos or participating in organised games.

Bedtimes are fixed according to age, though it might be wise with younger children to check if an adult sleeps in the same dormitory. Very few seem to have to go home early. Of PGL's 65,000 children last year only three were reported to be "monitors" for instance, and the kids "out" (a few well supervised, but there's a tuckshop and a phone, should they want to contact you).

If you're worried about having to travel halfway across Britain to take them there, most will "collect" from central pick-up points, or at least meet the train. From the details below you should be able to work out which holiday company will suit your child. We start with those offering a wide



But could he jump off a cliff backwards?

choice of "multi-activities" — which could mean up to 60 activities on offer with a choice of three or four each day. Most of these centres also offer more intensive courses in sports too. Obviously there are lots of others too.

Colony Holidays is an educational trust that's been running for 23 years. It's about "big" where other children, rather than bikes, computers or go-karts. Most children return year after year, and over half come back when they're too old as "monitors". Activities are often "adventures" — once we got the local police station to imprison the Matron and the children had to follow a trail through the town to find her. They also horse-ride, make things, sing, dance and do drama. This year they're running "Forest of Doom" where they're in conjunction with Puffin Books 7 to 18. 12 centres. Also day camps. £119 for a week. Grosvenor Hall, Bolnisi Road, Epsom, Surrey. Tel. 0444-458821.

PGL Young Adventure are the "giants" in the field, with 43 centres offering 65,000 6-18-year-olds multi-activity of every description (computers, performing arts) and specialist sports. New for this year are trial bikes (mini motorbikes), go-carts and ballpool swimming (twice a week). Visiting professionals for sporting holidays, lots of other kids around £118 plus VAT. Also day camps. Will send video out with brochures. Station Street, Ross on Wye. Tel. 0698-06217.

WY Holidays are non-profit making and have been established since 1913. They think of themselves as small and friendly with a "quality, personal approach". They're based in two permanent country houses, one in the Lake District, one in York-

shire, and take about 60 9-15's each week with up to four activities available a day. "Big" where other children, rather than bikes, computers or go-karts. Most children return year after year, and over half come back when they're too old as "monitors". Activities are often "adventures" — once we got the local police station to imprison the Matron and the children had to follow a trail through the town to find her. They also horse-ride, make things, sing, dance and do drama. This year they're running "Forest of Doom" where they're in conjunction with Puffin Books 7 to 18. 12 centres. Also day camps. £119 for a week. Grosvenor Hall, Bolnisi Road, Epsom, Surrey. Tel. 0444-458821.

Millfield School in Somerset's headmaster decided that it was a "criminal waste" that his school (the most expensive boarding school in Britain) should be idle in the holidays, and wanted people "who can't afford a school like this" to have full use of its facilities and manpower. The village of Education is 50 years old this year, and takes 8's and up (and adults) for holiday courses, with several hundred choices and combinations on offer. Everyone has use of the 130 acres of grounds (five sports halls) and most board "out" with families who, eye in loco parentis during term time, they sessions too. £140. Millfield School, Village of Education, Millfield, Street, Somerset. Tel. 0458 42291.

Escapades directors used to run crabs and now have one residential centre in Worcestershire. They take 100 5-18 year olds a week and reckon they get to know everyone personally. Multi-activities with flexible choice, day excursions. Also day camps. Definitely no mini-motorbikes — the danger level is too great. £113. 5 Arle Road, London N12. Tel. 01-445 2978.

Dolphin has a choice of over 60 activities at 18 residential centres (7-17) and join up with Colony for day camps. They take 25,000 children a year for multi-activities and specialist subjects (computers, video film-making). £115. Dolphin Adventure Holidays, Grosvenor Hall, Bolnisi Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. Tel. 0444 458177.

Camp Beaumont's American approach makes "a positive

contribution to your child's learning experience" at 18 centres. Seven-16. They were the first with computer camps, and now offer multi-activities and video film-making, science camps, "swot" camps (O levels) and sports. Children are allowed out (supervised). Most centres keep the children within the confines of the holiday centre. Day Camps (£119 plus VAT. Corpus Christi House, 9 West Street, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire. Tel. 0480 56123).

Mill on the Brue Activity Holidays is based on two farmhouses that each take 40 children (8-14). Multi-activities include raft-racing, grass-skiing (trained staff) and helping with farm animals. There are sports with farm activities including making bread. £136. Gants Mill, Bruton, Somerset. Tel. 074881 3589.

Tops Activity and Adventure Holidays take 7-16's in fairly small numbers for multi-activities in the Wye Valley (including photography), trail riding in the Black Mountains (converted farmhouse), and offer intensive computer, rugby and tennis coaching. Full time staff, as they take school groups in term time. £110 + VAT. Old Gloucester Road, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire. Tel. 0599 65666.

MORE SPECIFIC SPORTING CENTRES — HARDER WORK! ALL WEATHERS!

Outward Bound Trust have run their own "personal development" courses for 40 years with their motto: "To serve, to strive and not to yield." The first courses were designed to teach merchant navy cadets survival skills. Now they offer abseiling, raft building etc. in five centres in Wales, the Lakes and Scotland. Over 14's and adults. Disabled and partially hearing catered for too. Will appeal to "brave" parents. £150 + VAT. 12 Upper Belgrave St, London, SW1. Tel. 01-235 4286.

YHA travel has been taking 11-15's for 30 years, to hostels designed to cater for multi-activities with flexible choice and specific sports plus Watch! — special environment holidays. Small groups of about 12. (From £88 a week. 14 Southampton St, London WC2. Tel. 01-436 5542).

Drake's Island — a fortified island in Plymouth Sound takes over-12's and young adults (up to 25) sailing, canoeing, climbing, camping, caving and hiking. Established 20 years, they have a full-time residential staff and are approved by the Sports Council. £114. c/o Mayflower Centre, Plymouth. Tel. 0752 663180.

Bowles Outdoor Pursuits is a non-profit-making educational charity offering rock

climbing, canoeing, dry sailing, orienteering and pony trekking for 10's upwards in Tunbridge Wells. They also take adults. £132. Erridge Green, Tunbridge Wells. Tel. 08926 4127.

Windy Gyle Outdoor Centre takes 48 adults and unaccompanied children from 9 upwards in their Northumbrian country house. Multi-activities and sports approved by the RYA and BCU, plus evening therapy if required. £120. West St, Bedford, Northumberland. Tel. 06683 2699.

Adidas Soccer World (was Alan Mullery's Soccerworld) is based at two colleges in Oxford and Abingdon. 8-17. "Not a good choice for a child

who just wants to mess around." 8 hours "learning" a day. Tennis, badminton and golf too. £160. 10 Fir Tree Road, Banstead, Surrey. Tel. 07373 56730.

Most of the brochures are packed with details, from qualifications of the staff to the sort of accommodation they will sleep in. But you might also like to ask about the ratio of staff to children, what happens on rainy days (some sporting activities carry on regardless), do they need pocket money and do they have continuous access to a tuckshop; is there a resident doctor; does an adult sleep in the dormitories and perhaps most importantly, exactly how many hours a day are spent doing each activity?

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Bowles Outdoor Pursuits is a non-profit-making educational charity offering rock

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WEEK-END ARTS

Pick of next week's television and radio

Monday

Lignall (BBC2, 8.10). A morality tale linking the themes of Faust and Pygmalion, fashioned out of scripted scenes with actors and real events with real people. A lad from Lincolnshire, a latter-day Dick Whittington arrives in London to seek his fortune and finds instead a "ligger's paradise" where the streets are paved with free lunches. Not to be missed.

Tuesday

It's Only Rock And Roll (BBC2, 7.0). But it's given Mick Jagger a nice living these 20 odd years. As he refreshingly admits: "If you don't have fun on the road, it's your own fault." An old hand at interviews, he doesn't give much away to David Hepworth, so this Whistle Test special turns into a sort of retrospective of the Stones performing back to jumping Jack Flash and beyond.

Wednesday

Black House (BBC2, 9.0). The BBC returns to what it does best: classic drama with a pedigree cast (Denholm Elliott, Diana Rigg and a dozen others) and lavishly produced sets. In the first episode the sweetness and good intentions of the two young wards innocently caught up in the case of Jarndyce v Jarndyce contrast ominously with the madness of the Chancery, England's eternally "expecting a judgment shortly" as lawyers argue and fortunes are frittered away.

Thursday

Cover Up (BBC1, 9.55 and Friday 8.10). If you thought Miami Vice was a tacky excuse to show off some designer suits, try this. Jennifer O'Neil, who's turned into John Collins since her Summer Of '42 days, plays a vengeful but strangely ungrateful widow, sorting out Latin America in between dealing with a male model.

Friday

C.A.T.S. Eyes (ITV, 8.30). Believe that the Medway towns are the crossroads of international crime and espionage and the rest of this curtain-raiser to a new thriller series seems almost plausible.

Saturday

Amazing Bass (BBC2, 9.40). In his own way the double bass soloist Garry Karr is a bit of a superstar too, with a taste for humours and T-shirts saying "Bass is Beautiful". The highlight of this profile is Karr teaching Yehudi Menuhin to play the bass. Menuhin didn't need to be taught the instrument; he tells Karr "You have made the bass a violin."

Sunday

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greeting upon a strategy with John Whitehall and by her, who were in the building at the time, insist that they warned the Foreign Office that the demonstration was likely to end in violence. Could British security agencies have averted the killing?

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THE AGE of Caravaggio, the huge, and hugely successful, exhibition now at the Metropolitan Museum — and from May to June at the Capodimonte in Naples — seems to have been conceived with the aim of doing justice to a painter who, though scarcely known to the general public until now, is clearly one of the supreme geniuses of Western art. It is only in the twentieth century, that Michelangelo Merisi — better known as Caravaggio from the small town east of Milan where he spent his youth — has begun to come decisively into his own.

Even so, that he never lacked for sophisticated admirers. Almost as soon as Caravaggio arrived in Rome — around 1592, when he was about 21 — he enjoyed the support of powerful and discriminating patrons like Cardinal del Monte, who housed him, and Marchese Vincenzo Giustiniani, who bought his works and promoted his interests.

Though both gentlemen were avid collectors of Caravaggio's erotic and often salacious canvases of street boys, usually tricked out in unconvincing mythological guise, they also supported his ambition to give religious art a new direction by endowing it with a deliberately startling immediacy — not for the sake of mere sensationalism, but in order to shock the viewer into a state of enhanced awareness.

When, for example, Caravaggio's St Matthew and the Angel was rejected by the priests of San Luigi dei Francesi in 1602 on the grounds that the saint lacked both grandeur and spirituality, Giustiniani gladly bought it from them and paid for its replacement, also by Caravaggio.

During his brief and stormy life Caravaggio could get all the support he needed, especially as a painter of religious subjects. Endowed with a disturbingly innovative temperament, alike in matters of form and content, he showed an almost uncanny instinct for offending the timid, the conventional, the dutifully pious. Responding, whether consciously or otherwise, to the forces that in the wake of the Protestant revolution had sought reform within the Roman Catholic church, Caravaggio used painting as a means of humanising religion, or revealing impalpable truths with a physicality and a sense of daily reality that



Detail from Milan's Supper at Emmaus

Dale Harris reports on New York's fresh look at Caravaggio

The eye of the sinner

everyone could acknowledge.

In his altar piece for the Cavalletti Chapel of Sant'Agostino, the Madonna, holding a large and obviously heavy Christ child, appears before two humble, working-class pilgrims, who kneel before the apparition with wrapt devotion, revealing as they do so the soles of their unmistakably dirty feet. In The Incredulity of St Thomas, painted for Giustiniani, the saint pokes his finger deep into the wound on Christ's side, winking his brow with the effort to understand what is experiencing.

In The Death of the Virgin, rejected by the priests of Santa Maria della Scala because of its lack of decorum, Mary lies on her bier, her stomach swollen and her feet bare, the fact of her eternal significance made evident not in the usual iconographic symbols of holiness but in the unassuming grief of the Apostles.

Caravaggio's acceptability as a painter was hardly helped by his reputation as a man. A born outsider, bisexual, contentious, violent to a point of lawlessness, he was

always in trouble with the guardians of order. On one occasion he was arrested for carrying arms without a permit, on another for throwing a plate of artichokes at a waiter, on yet another for assaulting the police.

In 1606, during the course of a brawl that erupted over a wager on a tennis match, he killed a young man and spent the remaining four years of his life as a fugitive from Papal justice. In Naples, to which he had fled after being given refuge by the Duke of Colonna, he was at one point set upon and disfigured by unknown as-

salants, probably as an act of revenge.

His end was appalling. Upon fleeing from Malta, where he had in some way offended the all-powerful Knights of Malta, Caravaggio went to Sicily, and then back to Naples, from Naples he embarked in secret for Rome, where supporters were trying to obtain Papal pardon on his behalf.

Landing at Port'Ercole he was mistaken for another criminal and briefly imprisoned. As soon as he was released he discovered that the ship on which he had left all his possessions had

sailed. Trying to catch sight of her he ran wildly along the shore, eventually collapsing with a raging fever. Taken to a fisherman's hut he died shortly afterwards, apparently alone. He was a few months short of his 38th birthday. Just over a week later, his pardon was announced.

The connection between Caravaggio's art and life is plain. Violence fascinated him. In his early days, he enjoyed confronting his viewers with such unsettling sights as that of Judith in the act of beheading Holofernes, whose blood spurts fiercely from his severed arteries.

Toward the end of his life, for the Knights of Malta, he painted the dead John the Baptist at the moment when, after killing him, the executioner is about to sever his neck. But then Caravaggio was less interested in the violence of the deed than in its horror and inhumanity. While an official directs the hand of the executioner, an old woman stares down in anguish at the fallen saint, holding her hands over her ears as if to shut out the noise of the blow about to fall.

While permission to borrow The Beheading of John the Baptist was denied the Metropolitan, along with several other Caravaggio masterpieces, the grounds of their susceptibility to damage, enough of his paintings, and those of his precursors and contemporaries, are on show to demonstrate the awesome scope of his achievement and the astonishing leaps in maturity he kept making throughout his life.

Particularly illuminating in this respect is the juxtaposition of the National Gallery's Supper at Emmaus, painted around 1600, and that from the Brera, painted some six years later. In the London picture the spiritual revelation that occurs as Christ bleeds in the violent gestures of surprise on the part of the Apostles.

In the picture from Milan the revelation is more inward and more profound. Not only are the Apostles less demonstrative, they are also more moved by what they see. At the same time, the plump, rather self-satisfied-looking Christ of the earlier painting has given way to a withdrawn figure, saddened by the failings of men, yet with a white compassion for their plight.

TELEVISION

Nancy Banks-Smith

To The World's End

HOW Merrie England and hey, nonny, no the destination boards of London buses sound: Bethnal Green, Mount Pleasant, Haymarket, Gospel Oak. Oh, the merry quacking of the ducks on Ball's Pond and the gambolling of the little lambs under the blossom at Shepherd's Bush.

It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive at Wood Green. But to be a tourist, End by Jonathan Gill (BBC2) was the way you dream it might be. It was a charmingly musical meander from Camden Town to Chelsea in a nice clean bus with a cheerful conductor. The No 31 travels through a little world of ethnic communities clustering together for company and stops, of course, at World's End.

At Chalk Farm, appropriately enough, there was a rather tense residents' meeting about who should look after the chickens: "The reference to 'we' is really offensive." At Swiss Cottage an Austrian pianist was playing Strauss. "I am a little bit over 80 and I feel like 96. I am maybe unique in the whole world, the possessor of a record which Strauss made in 1898. The only thing is I can't find the record." Isn't that life all over? In Notting Hill Gate a charming, black seven-year-old lived with her grannie. "When she gets cross I don't like it because her blood pressure goes up, so I try my best to keep her blood pressure down." She wanted to be a pianist. It should, you feel, be possible to introduce the seven-year-old to the 30-year-old, who wouldn't feel 96 any more after meeting her.

OTHER PLACE

Michael Billington

Philistines

THE RSC has long had a love affair with the plays of Maxim Gorky, and the latest fruit of their passion is the British professional premiere of Philistines at Stratford's Other Place. Originally banned by the Moscow censor in 1902 for its progressive sentiments, it may not be a masterpiece but it is an exquisitely gripping play: a family drama that also offers a portrait of a turbulent, introspective society ripe for upheaval.

Gorky doesn't have Chekhov's symphonic structure. What he does have is a sense of total realism. Here he takes us into the Besenmenov household which offers an image of the divisions in Russian society. The paterfamilias is a penny-pinching, petty-bourgeois tyrant constantly raging against his drifting student-son and unwed school-mistress-daughter. But while all three represent a doomed, pessimistic class, faith in the future is embodied by sundry relatives and lodgers who make up this teeming household: an idealistic train-driver Nil whose surname might well be Desperandum, his seamstress fiancée Polya and a merry widow who invests her energy in personal relationships. Watching over these tangled characters is an embittered, vodka-swilling choir-singer who astutely remarks: "Everyone here is just tuning up for life."

One test of a good play is how much of a society it manages to put on a stage; and Gorky gives us a powerful picture of a feverish world in which the class-war mixes with the generation-war and in which a sense of dissolution is imminent. Where Chekov works through metaphor, Gorky pins his faith in direct statement. But, although he lets you know squarely whose side he is on, he has a human compassion for the victims of petty-bourgeois suffering. The one indisputably tragic figure in the play is Tatyana, the overworked spinster-school-mistress (a cousin of Olga in Three Sisters) raging with unrequited love for Nil; and she is here given a brilliant performance by Fiona Shaw who hovers over every scene like a black ghost and whose lean, angular body is constantly corkscrewed and distorted by the ravages of passion.

John Caird's production has the emotional overdrive demanded by Russian drama and is sensitive to the play's astonishing shifts of mood. David Burke's paterfamilias is a grizzled bully given to towering rages at the dinner-table and to using his jabbing forefinger like a battering-ram. The man is clearly a monster and a summation of everything in Russia Gorky despises; yet there is something blackly comic about his disproportionate anger which Mr Burke beautifully captures as he goes brickbatted at the least provocation.

But everyone in this cast seems to have been fired by the rich human material. Clive Russell, massive in thick worsted, lends the vodka-punishing observer a thin-lipped self-hatred. Anna Carter-Marshall gives the gregarious widow a strong hint of calculation in financial and amatory matters. And Mark Dignam endows a liberal-hearted old bird with a dash of wit (despite his profession) as almost Blakeian delight in nature. Even the train-driver, not shining an embodiment of the virtue of manual toil, is decently played by Tom Manton as a doughty Scot.

Dusty Hughes, responsible for the pungent new version of this neglected play, clubs Gorky's "literary primitive." In some ways he was. But he recorded what he saw with absolute clarity and in this fascinating play shows how the tension in Russian society invades and destroys a single family.

COVENT GARDEN

Edward Greenfield

Don Carlo

IF ANY single production at Covent Garden signalled the post-war re-emergence of the Royal Opera House as an international force, it was Lauchino Visconti's spectacular presentation of Verdi's Don Carlo in 1958. Rightly it has been kept in the repertoire, not as a museum piece, but as a theatrical experience still very much alive. At its last revival the experiment was tried of presenting the original French text of 1867 at a length that even Verdi never actually heard, but enough was enough.

It was a snag too that singers of the right quality, able and willing to sing the French version were virtu-

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WEEK-END PEOPLE

Jesus freezes

PETITE, demure and softly spoken, the Rev Jan Orr-Harter (31) seems an unlikely percussion cap for the nuclear Freeze explosion which claims 80 per cent support in the United States. A Presbyterian pastor from Manhattan, she was in Birmingham at the weekend for the first assembly of British Freeze groups.

A sixth generation Texan, she was waitress in Boston in the 1970s when she met a woman Presbyterian minister. "I wanted to be a minister all my life but I didn't know it was possible," she said. "We have had women ministers in the Presbyterian church for 30 years but I didn't realise." She is married with a three-year-old child.

A year after a bilateral freeze of the arms race was mooted in the Senate in 1979, she was on the national committee that launched Freeze as a popular campaign. Endorsement by the Presbyterian Church spread rapidly to other denominations. Even the Southern Baptists, she said with a grin.

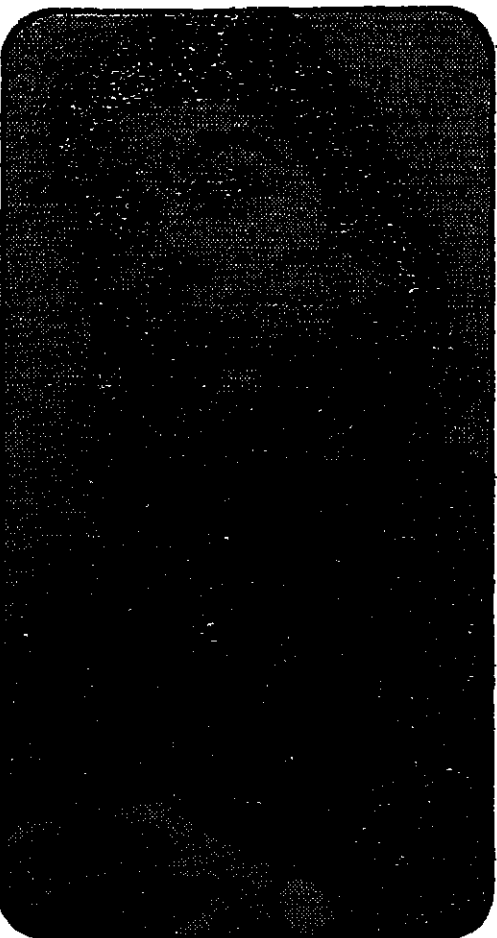
So it was a predominantly religious movement. There were other groups, but the churches were the bedrock, she said. Her own church had been studying the issue since 1975, a preparation that caught the media unawares when Freeze mushroomed in 1982. A Washington Post reporter telephoned her to demand an explanation. Jesus, she replied, "he was so abbergasted he hung up the phone and grunted it."

On the instructions of her congregation, she spends half her time campaigning. Her Manhattan HQ is appropriately in the church sanctuary. She also has a seat on the national strategy committee.

By concentrating on congressional districts in last year's elections, Freeze mopped up 20 key seats in Congress and three more supporters in the Senate. "Whenever states allow, we put Freeze on the ballot. In nine states out of 10 it has been won overwhelmingly."

She talks of President Reagan mustering the courage and vision to propose a freeze to the Soviet Union. Wasn't that pie in the sky? She cited Kennedy's television appearance in 1963 which paved the way for a partial test-ban treaty.

But weren't the arms makers too firmly in the saddle now, with their eyes fixed on the



ORR-HARTER: churches are the bedrock. Picture by Frank Martin

stars? She replied that Freeze had been assured by impeccable sources that its proposals would have no effect on the economy, and besides, businessmen were now concerned by the budget deficit.

Freeze's second favoured option is to bypass Reagan by urging Congress to suspend funds. "We have 46 pro-Freeze senators. We need 51 to go round the President. That was how the Vietnam War was stopped."

Her message to Britain was that we possess more influence than we realise. "I don't think they will stop without overwhelming international pressure. If the people of Britain are truly our allies, we must work together."

If you're Irish, gombeen to the parlour

SOME are born foreign, others have foreigners thrust upon them. Take Valerie Braddell. She spent her first 20 summers in Portugal. Her father, a cork merchant, came from a long line of English Protestants in Southern Ireland. Her mother, a Catholic, was half Irish.

None of this mattered a jot until the Portuguese Revolution, which found her attending drama school in Lisbon, fluent in Portuguese, English, Spanish and French.

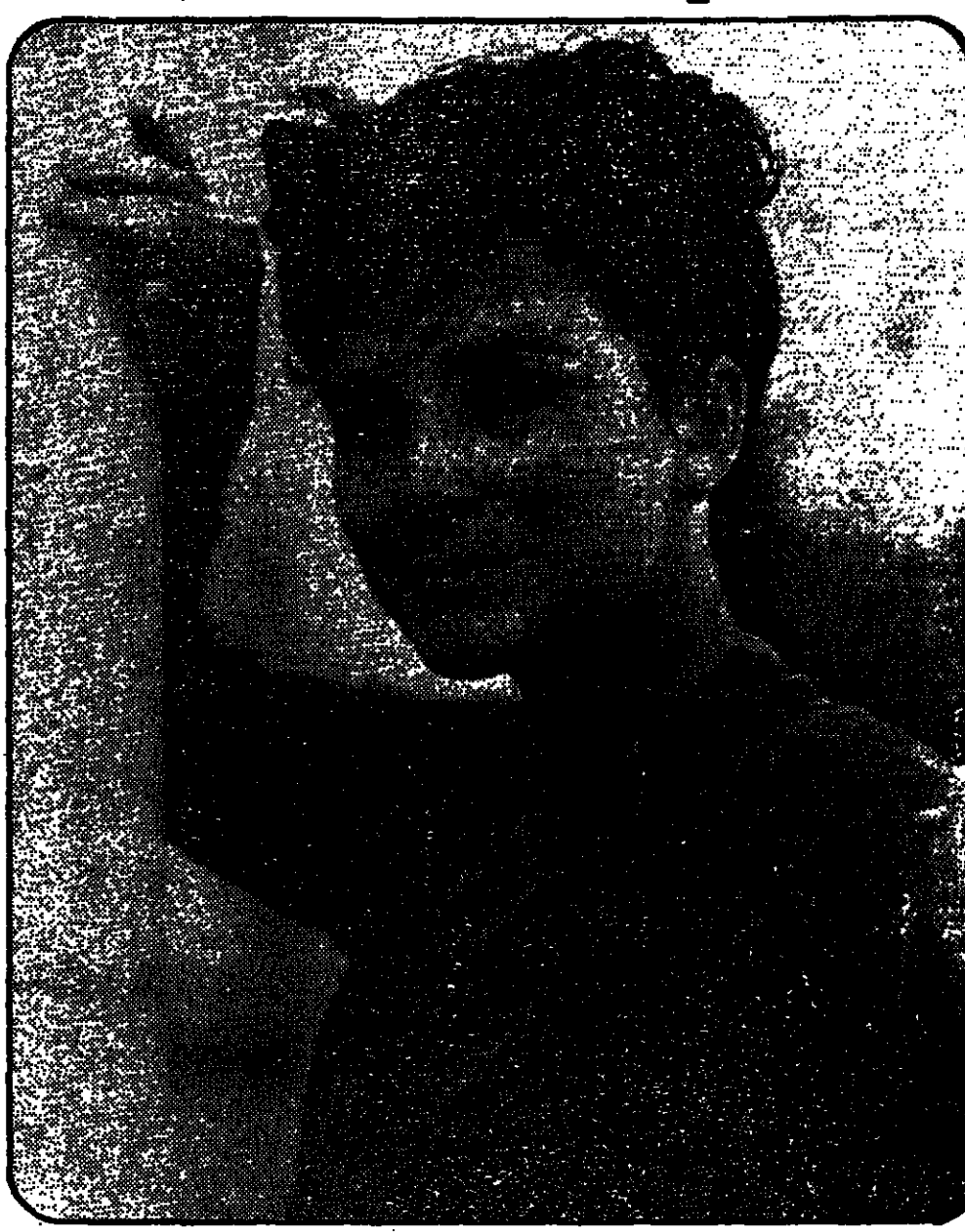
For a while I was quite involved. I went to meetings where people debated which teachers should be sacked. Then I got fed up. I wanted to get on with the craft of being an actress. It came to a climax when I broke a stable and went to a class I was confronted with a lot of aggression — the whole business about being a 'bloody foreigner'."

She came to London. After RADA and four years with the Actors Touring Company, her mixture of nationalities is proving an asset. On Tuesday she plays an Irish kidnapper in Seanamh Finnegan's play, Gombeen, at the Air Gallery Theatre Downstairs. Gombeen, Irish slang for traitor, is a modern re-creation of the 1921 civil war in Ireland, played out in the hideout of a Dublin minister.

Next month she returns to Portugal to begin filming alongside Martin Sheen in Chain reaction.

Valerie Braddell plays Sheen's guide, a curiously neat bit of casting. In Lisbon she had trained a guide-interpreter. "I was quite successful at it. When Portugal was giving up its colonies I did lots of interpreting for Mario Soares when he was Minister of Foreign Affairs."

BRADDELL: neat casting Picture by E. Hamilton West



THE GUARDIAN 1960

APRIL 6: Capetown, April 5. At least two people were killed and many others wounded today in new clashes between Africans and the police in the townships in the Durban and Capetown areas where Africans have been slow to work following the Sharpeville and Langa shootings.

In Lamontville, 10 miles from Durban, police opened fire this evening on a crowd of 1,000, killing one and injuring two. Two other Africans were hurt during police baton charges, and several policemen were also injured. According to the police, the crowds were waiting to waylay other Africans who were returning from work.

According to the official version of today's and yesterday's disturbances, indeed, police action has been taken to prevent the intimidation of Africans who have gone to work. But, according to other reports, the police have moved through the streets beating with sticks and batons any able-bodied Africans in sight, apparently in an attempt to force them back to work.

APRIL 8: Capetown, April 7. Police and troops at dawn today raided Nyanga township, the main centre of African resistance, and arrested more than 1,500 people and carrying away eight sacks of weapons after a house-to-house search.

Deputy Commissioner of South African police in Capetown, Colonel I. P. S. Terblanche, said no resistance was encountered. The operation has been taken solely in the interests of law-abiding residents of Nyanga "who have been living in a reign of terror."

Father Stanley Qabasi, Anglican clergyman in charge of the Holy Cross church, Nyanga, said tonight everything was quiet in Nyanga.

Colonel J. E. Reay, a police staff officer, asked how many arrests had been made, refused to say and added that he did not know whether 50, 500, or 5,000 were arrested. The important fact is that we succeeded in smashing the intimidators."

Mr Justice Galcut, of the Supreme Court, ruled, Pretoria, that detainees under the emergency regulations must be granted the right to see counsel. This was a fundamental right which had never been questioned.

The judgment followed a habeas corpus application made on their behalf on March 30 shortly after the announcement of their detention.

APRIL 9: In his address to the Security Council last week, the South African representative, Mr B. G. Fourie, gave this account of the history of the disturbances at Sharpeville and Langa, on March 21:

A splinter organisation of extremists had started some time ago to organise a mass demonstration to protest against the carrying of reference books. The reference book was instituted when the pass system—

This past Monday was ordered by the extremists to be a day of mourning. But what was it in fact? Merely a repetition of his previous violence, plundering and senseless destruction of social and educational institutions which are there for the benefit of the Bantu themselves. But the extremists do not mind what they destroy, as long as they do destroy.

It is my Government's belief that the annual discussion of South Africa since 1946 helped to weld the situation there. It would be even more serious if the present discussion in the council were to embolden the agitators or serve as incentive to further demonstrations and rioting in South Africa, with subsequent attacks by rioters not only on members of the police but also the mass of peaceful citizens trying to carry on a normal life.

I am instructed to say that if it were to be the result of the blame will rest squarely on the shoulders of the Security Council.

APRIL 11: Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, the South African Premier, who was wounded by a bullet in the chest on Saturday April 9, was yesterday removed from Johannesburg to the Pretoria General Hospital.

The two bullets, fired point blank by a white man at an agricultural show in Johannesburg before 30,000 people, entered his ear and the roof of his mouth, breaking his upper and lower jaws.

APRIL 12: Capetown, April 12. The Anglican Archbishop of Capetown, the Most Rev. Dr Joost de Blank, in a statement issued today, called on the Dutch Reformed Churches — the majority churches in South Africa — to repudiate compulsory apartheid.

Unless they did so, he said, the Anglican Church in South Africa "can no longer be linked with the Dutch Reformed Churches in the World Council of Churches." And, he added, "other churches should no longer be associated with them in any council or federation."

People is written by Stuart Wavell

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Franta Belsky, sculptor, 64; Judi Bowker, actress, 31; Joan Carville, lyric soprano, 54; Bernard Carter, artist, 65; Paul Daniels, magician, 47; Willis Hall, playwright, scriptwriter, 56; Dr David Ingram, vice-chancellor, Kent, 53; Gerry Mulligan, saxophonist, band leader, 53; Richard Murdoch, actor, 78; the Rev. Ian Pais-

ley, MP, MEP, 59; André Previn, pianist, composer, conductor, 56; Marc Sallertrange, rugby footballer, 25

TOMORROW: actors: James Garner, 57, Ian Richardson, 51, and Andrew Sachs, 55; Angela Bismack, golfer, 45; Francis Ford Coppola, film writer, director, 46; Graham Dene, record presenter, 36; David Frost, broadcaster, 46; Cliff Morgan, former international rugby footballer, head, BBC TV outside broadcasts

55: Ravi Shankar, sitarist, 65. MONDAY: actors: Alfie Bass, 64, Hywel Bennett, 41, Eric Porter, 57, and Dorothy Tutin, 54; General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, military historian, 61; Carmen McKee, jazz singer, 63; Mary Moore, principal, St Hilda's, Oxford, 55.

TUESDAY: Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 28; Jean-Paul Belmondo, actor, 52; Lord David Cecil, 83; Anil Dasgupta, composer, con-

ductor, 79; Lord (Gerry) Fitt, 59; Hannah Gordon, actress, 44; Sir Robert Helpmann, ballet dancer, choreographer, actor, 78; Tom Jackson, trade union leader turned antiquarian bookseller, 60; Alan Knott, cricketer, 39; Tom Lehrer, mathematician, composer, entertainer, 57; Alexander Moulton, bicycle designer, 65; Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 68; Carl Perkins, rock 'n' roll singer, composer, 53; Richard Rose, director and professor of

public policy, Strathclyde, 52

WEDNESDAY: Aidan Crawley, author, former MP, television broadcaster and executive, 77; Patrick Garland, artistic director, Chichester Festival Theatre, 50; Adrian Henri, poet, 53; Gloria Hunniford, broadcaster, 45; Stan Mebor, jockey turned trainer, 48; David Moorcroft, runner, 32; Robert Rhodes James, MP, political historian, 52; Maurice Schumann, writer, broad-

caster, former Gaullist foreign minister, 74; Omar Sharif, actor, champion bridge player, 53; Paul Theroux, author, 44; Norman Vaughan, comedian, 60.

THURSDAY: Professor Raymond Carr, warden, St Antony's, Oxford, 66; Germaine de Peyer, clarinetist, 59; Clive Epton, scriptwriter, playwright, 55; Ronald Fraser, actor, 55; Avril Poole, chief nursing officer, department of health and social security, 51

FRIDAY: Alan Ayckbourn, playwright, 46; Roger Baird, rugby footballer, 25; Raymond Barre, former prime minister of France, 61; Montserrat Caballé, soprano, 52; David Cassidy, pop singer, 35; Lionel Hampton, jazz vibraphonist, band leader, 72; Edward Hile, jockey, 40; Uwe Kitzinger, economist, 57; Hardy Kruger, actor, 57; Bryan Magee, MP, writer, broadcaster, 55; Bobby Moore, former England football captain,



BAHRAINIS: flourishing in the Gulf's watering-hole. Picture by Stuart Wavell

A cut and dried growth industry

A QUICK visit to Bahrain last week to investigate outlets for the Guardian's Gourmet Card. In ancient times the island, 15 miles off the coast of Saudi Arabia, was known as a paradisaical land of sweet waters. Its 4,000-year-old civilisation, the most ancient in the Gulf, has evolved a sophisticated

Populace whose tolerance has earned the place a reputation for more potent liquors. The absence of alcoholic subterfuge is one reason why the large British expatriate population tends to stay there longer than elsewhere in the Bahrainis' dry conviviality. "We call you wogs here," remarked a government minister. "I don't know what you call us."

There is, of course, the money. Bahrain is a commercial and banking centre. Some 15 nights a day disgorge Saudi businessmen. Conferences attract numerous other callers from the Gulf states, many eager to sample the illicit pleasures of amber tinctures. "They lock themselves in their rooms and don't come out all weekend," said a hotel employee.

The near-completion of a causeway to Saudi Arabia is now reportedly filling both sides with alarm. The optimistic prospect of 50,000 Saudi cars a day loading up with booze, combined with other factors, has prompted rumours that the Saudis are pressing for a delay of the December opening until customs formalities have been ironed out.

Containing this sensitivity, the Ministry of Information promised and then refused to permit our press party to visit the causeway. Instead they tantalisingly laid on a show trip. The pilot's gesticulations to Mecca prompted the unkind remark that he was praying we would not catch sight of the forbidden structure.

However, it all means

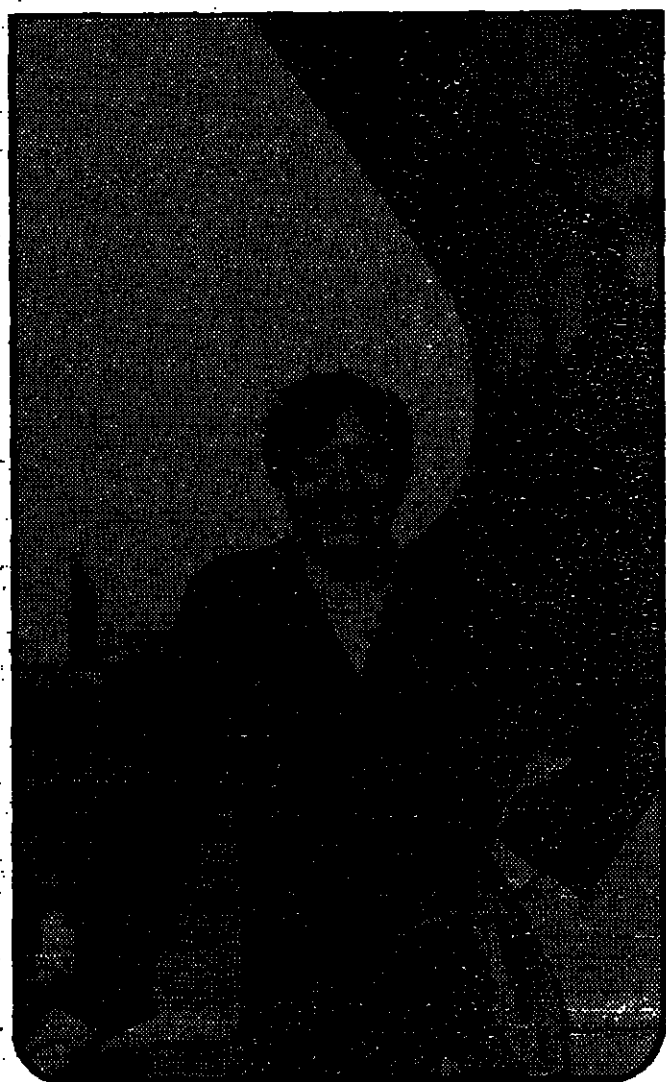
more work for John Peter, the island's contact member for Alcoholics Anonymous. An Indian, he has been holding open meetings for the past 15 years at the American Mission Hospital, where he works as materials purchasing manager. Before then, small groups met in each other's houses.

"It is a real problem, but I would not say so much of a problem," he said. "It is true the whole society suffers. I am a non-alcoholic person. I wanted to help the alcoholic person. Everybody knows me."

There are four meetings a week, each attended by an intentionally small group of, on average, 10-15 people. There is the usual network of telephone contacts and separate discussions groups for spouses.

"Most members are ex-pats. Their company managers bring the problem to our doctors. Once they have been dried out it gives greater assurance to the companies to know that they are being helped to retain their sobriety."

Bahrain's AA is also a sanctuary from temptation for visiting alcoholics. Surprisingly there are eight "fellowships" in Saudi Arabia and branches in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Muscat.



HOLDEN, from Hull to Tenko

Off-side trap

FORMER Tottenham manager Keith Burkinshaw, now half-way through a two-year contract reportedly worth £250,000 as Bahrain's national coach, watched in disbelief as a "friendly" international between Bahrain and Lebanon was abandoned five minutes before the end last Sunday week.

A handball near the box had the Lebanese players shouting "penalty" and refusing to resume the game at half time. They did so after 20 minutes and the intervention of the Bahrain Football Association.

One Lebanese player fouled off, followed soon after by another three. With seven players, Lebanon then conceded an own-goal and their goals claimed a muscle-pull. Bahrain was leading 6-0 when the match was called off. "I have never seen anything like this before," said Burkinshaw, whose target is qualification for next year's World Cup.

Just singing in Bahrain

BASSEY is booked for Bahrain. So are the Supremes. But the Gulf's big spenders need a permanent source of baby love, a live muzak for the predominantly male clientele of its hotel bars. Night after night, seven days a week, Duxton, the husband and wife harmony team of Tony and Louise Platt, do their stuff in the Cavalry Club Bar of Bahrain's Hilton Hotel. They have been shuffling round the Gulf for al-

most three years, haunted by the collapsed soufflé of a dream.

It was a dream of living the Good Life. But in Hornchurch, their carrots had grown upwards instead of down. In Somerset, Tony's vocation as a bee-keeper had been punctured by the cost of living. A Gulf contract beckoned.

They met in Switzerland — Tony as a veteran instrumentalist and vocalist,

Louise as a dancer who had appeared with Max Bygraves, Charlie Drake and Dick Emery. Their return to England was precipitated by the Japanese quartz watch, which forced many Swiss horologists to clock in as full-time musicians.

"We try to get out as much as possible," said Tony. "Living in hotels can become claustrophobic. But once you get to know the staff in hotels it's almost like going home."

Dock briefs

BESIDE the huge well of Bahrain's dry dock, Paul Holden (25) from South Shields was taking a breather with his mates. All morning they had been grilling and spraying one side of a Kuwaiti tanker while an Arab crew worked on the other. Although the shipyard is a source of pride, reared by a Gulf states as he most modern in the region and employing 75 per cent Arab labour, the ship-ping decline and the Gulf War are keeping it in the red. Bahrain has only handed two casualties of the war, the others mostly heading for Dubai.

There is usually a British crew of eight, hired through a Newcastle contractor. Holden works 11 hours a day for £412 a week (minus British taxes). He lives in dock-side quarters which the Erit-ian have dubbed Tenko. They sleep four to a room, sharing the building with Filipinos, Koreans and Indians.

"I started dock work in Hull with my uncle," he said. "Then the chance came to go to Bahrain and I took it. I've been here five times before. I was saving up to get married. I don't need to now. I am married. It's not bad once you get used to the heat. We have a good supply of videos. And there's the drink."

Kennel vision

MAD DOGS and Englishmen have at last teamed up in the mid-day sun. Bahrainis coddle their camels, fuss over their falcons, but like most Arabs regard dogs as unclean. This derives not only from strays' irregular notions of pavement etiquette but the fact that packs of wild dogs regularly hurdle out of the desert to chew up cats and terrify children.

The police's solution is to shoot them wherever they are found. Hot pursuit sometimes leads into people's gardens, plunging not only the miscreants but domestic pets as well. "I just felt we had to do something," said Betty Rajah. "I was appalled at the way animals were left badly wounded."

Mrs Rajah, a Scots nurse married to a Bahraini obstetrician, joined forces with a local vet in 1979 to found the Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, of which she is secretary. Their solution, which she admits is inadequate, is a large dog sanctuary on the outskirts of the capital city, Manama.

They now have 50 dogs, shortly to be culled humanely to 30, which despite donations of food from hospitals and supermarkets, consume a large chunk of the BSPCA's £1,300-a-month running costs. Entirely voluntarily, the outfit operates a collection service for strays and pays up to £10 to have wounded dogs put down.

The authorities have been sympathetic, leasing them land and reducing the rate of shootings, although Mrs Rajah sees no effective alternative to the problem. The citizenry is bemused. "The Bahrainis laugh at us. They say why care about starving animals when there are plenty of starving human beings?"

So far dogs have wagged the BSCC. They would like to embrace the island's 750 donkeys. "A donkey is only of value as long as it can work. After that no one gives a hoot."

Defining the limits of protest as 10 acres

Until earlier this week it seemed inevitable that official obduracy would ensure that the Easter weekend CND demonstrations at RAF Molesworth would end in a muddy and ill-tempered confrontation. The Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, is still on a high after Our Boys' heroic nocturnal eviction of the Molesworth peace campers in February. He was in no mood to compromise about the Easter anti-cruise protest. No demonstrations would be allowed on Ministry of Defence land, even on the 10 acre fields adjacent to the missile site which the MoD is preparing to sell off to politically vetted bidders. New military by-laws were rushed into force a week ago, making it a criminal (as distinct from a civil) trespass to set foot on RAF Molesworth land. CND's plan to plant rainbow pennants around Mr Heseltine's barbed wire stockade on Easter Monday afternoon was therefore in jeopardy, with every pennant planter liable to arrest and a £100 fine. Every opportunity was being taken to play up local fears about the weekend's protest.

Mr Heseltine is not alone in trying to use the law of trespass to prevent the occasional disruption of business. Coincidentally, the League Against Cruel Sports is using such tactics to stop hunting on Exmoor. By citing their partial victory in the courts this week, where hunters were adjudged liable in some circumstances for trespass by their hounds, they hope to stop it everywhere. In each case the rights of landed property are being used to put the squeeze on a perceived menace. In each case it is a disingenuous way of trying to stop others from doing something the owners don't want them to do at all, anywhere.

But CND has been rescued by the unlikely intervention of the Cambridgeshire police. The local constabulary's role in previous Molesworth manoeuvres has been neither independent nor distinguished. But in midweek, prodded and nudged by CND organisers, the police emerged as advocates of a commonsense compromise. The boys in blue may not like the Molesworth demonstrators (indeed their earlier actions show they dislike them very much). But at least they now recognise that the Easter protests are unstoppable. At the eleventh hour they have persuaded Mr Heseltine that it is better to absorb the crowds on to the 10-acre site than to risk the uncontrollable confusion and bitterness of a coalfield-style blockade of the Molesworth approaches. Blind eyes, it seems, will be turned to the pennant planting. We have been and remain deeply concerned at the Cambridgeshire police's involvement in Mr Heseltine's games. And no doubt this time they have acted pragmatically, not out of love for free speech. Things may still go wrong tomorrow and on Monday. But the police have done the right thing. It will still be muddy, but at least some of the potential for angry confrontation has been removed.

As a result, CND has won a small victory in a much wider campaign about the legitimacy of protest. The fact that the anti-cruise demonstrations will now go ahead relatively unimpeded is an important recognition that protest is a proper activity. One can feel sympathy for local people who just want to be left alone, and hope also that needless antagonism of Molesworth inhabitants will be avoided. But political protest is part of normal life, too. It cannot and must not be endlessly sacrificed on the altar of a quiet life. Many attempts have been made during the past decade to delegitimise the right of assembly. Police have been in the forefront of these attempts. The Government is poised to roll back these rights still further in its forthcoming public order White Paper. That is why the Easter protests are not only a witness against cruise missiles, but a witness on behalf of the right to protest itself.

Episcopal agony of the cross

On the third day He rose again. Christ crucified was not the end of the story. That, in significant part, is what differentiates people of agnostic goodwill from believing Christians. We can all, whatever the state of our belief or our unbelief, accept that Christ was an historic figure and that he was a deeply wise and a deeply good man. The Christian believes in the unique and the uniquely holy nature of Christ the man and of Christ as something more. He was, for millions, in terms no doubt simplistic to some theologians and to some bishops, the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, who died for our sins and then rose again. The issue this Easter for Anglicans in particular, is what is meant by those propositions. The Bishop of Durham has aired his questions about the literal truth of such great simplicities and the Bishop of Norwich has an answer. For a "kind, academic man" like Durham to open the box is enough to disqualify him. As Norwich said of Durham, "I believe he should not be a bishop of the Church of England."

That is a declaration of war and a declaration of war, moreover, which will be fought out in a couple of months' time when the House of Bishops meets to discuss the Anglican bottom line. In a sense that should please the Bishop of Durham. He has consistently stressed that his doubts about the orthodox nature of the Virgin Birth, and of the Resurrection were designed to force a well-established church to think about matters spiritual as well as matters temporal. In that he has achieved his goal, the issues he elected to place upon the agenda, have filtered through.

In advance of House of Bishops debate it is worth trying to identify what the dispute is not about. It is not about who is a True Believer and not about who can, with honesty, call himself a Christian. It is about who should feel free to claim himself a communicant member of the Church of England. That question is complicated still further by the established nature of the Anglican church. The Bishop of Durham, upon appointment, indicated his assent to the 39 Articles and to the Creed. The bishop airs doubts about the divine impregnation of Mary and about the physical revival of the bones and flesh of the crucified Christ. Yet he believes that to say Christ was the Son of God is to say something more than that we are all sons or daughters of some divine being.

He accepts that, in some ineffable sense, Christ died for all of us, and survived beyond that physical death. It is for the bishops in solemn convocation in June, to decide whether that suffices for an Anglican bishop, and for communicant members of the church to decide whether they can abide by that decision.

What complicates the issue is the established nature of the Anglican church. That is why Parliamentarians, many of them not particularly devout Anglicans, feel compelled to intervene. That is why, when Durham and others express their views on anything from M3 to the miners' strike, there is controversy. The Bishop of Durham, by inviting us this Easter to ponder upon things spiritual and upon things temporal has, by implication, invited us to think about the nature of an established church in a multi ethnic society whose religious affiliations are by no means as simple as they once were.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A room for a few

Sir—The new board and lodging regulations debated in the House of Commons yesterday April 2 will come into force at the end of the month.

They mean that the supplementary benefit limit for bed and breakfast accommodation in London will be £49 per week. Little is currently available under £70 per week. People under 26 will only receive even this inadequate payment for eight weeks.

After that they will have to move out of London to receive any board and lodging payment at all. In most other parts of the country they will only receive payments for four weeks before they have to move yet again. Alone in London, a young man is a voluntary agency providing advice, counselling and hostel accommodation to young homeless people. Last year two of our clients became homeless. One was a drug addict whose drug problem was exacerbated by depression linked with constant homelessness. She committed suicide. The other was a young man who became a male prostitute to earn money for his accommodation. He was killed by a client.

The effect of the new regulations will be to increase the number of young people who face similar problems will be considerably increased.

All homeless people, and especially the young facing the eight or four week rule, will be unable to afford adequate accommodation and most will not have time to find work before they are on the streets.

Even if they have a home, very few of our clients can return to it, they have often been thrown out of their homes because of intolerable conditions. More will therefore commit crimes or become prostitutes. They may suffer from violence or turn to drink or drugs. Some will suffer from exposure or become so depressed that they kill themselves. At the same time the new regulations will severely limit our ability to help.

We urge people to contact their MPs and the government to request that these regulations are changed as soon as possible. — Yours faithfully, Bryan Symens, Director, Alone in London Service, 190 Euston Road, London NW1.

Early warning

Sir—As a social work practitioner in education and research on the topic of disruptive pupils, I feel that James Hemming (Letters, April 3) is quite right in highlighting our failure to socialise increasing numbers of children in their educational environments.

Problem formation in this area is progressive and easily detectable at the pre-secondary stage. We need vision and willingness to recognise the evolutionary nature of the disruptive process and to deploy resources to examine it, in toto, as a preliminary to designing practical strategies for intervention.

Taking the path advocated by Mr Smithies, that is increasing provision of off-site units, mostly for 4th and 5th year children, means that we shall continue to concentrate conceptual and financial resources in an area where problems are well developed and possibly intractable. — Yours sincerely, Mike Cooper, 10 Hathaway Drive, Warwick.

Miscellany at large

Sir—Your front page (April 3) starts this morning by telling us the Mr John Gummer is making "an effort to try" to cut the activities of the far right.

This strange turn of phrase is increasingly seen and heard. At first sight it seems simply mistaken English. On second thoughts, though, I wonder if it isn't a subconscious expression of our true predicament. Is this what is meant when we are referred to as "a tired old country"?

If we were really trying, we could, of course, cure unemployment, the housing problem and many of the other factors which lead to the despair from which nationalism no doubt partially springs. Have we lost heart? Are we using up all our energy just trying to try? — Yours faithfully, Eileen Alpan, 41 Timberfields, Saughall, Chester.

A COUNTRY DIARY

MACHYNLEITH—The menace of the woodburning stove hangs over the countryside like some dreadful doom. No doubt these stoves are heard less often in parts of the world like Scandinavia or Canada where trees grow thick and autumn leaves in Vallombrosa. And perhaps in Britain no great damage is done in well-wooded districts. But what about the many areas where woodlands are sparse and where the few trees that exist are now under savage attack? Since these stoves became so popular, firewood merchants have sprung up everywhere. And

Parents who don't know best

Sir—Your leader (March 30) on the Jasmine Beckford case unfortunately left out of consideration the vitally important influence which the media—and particularly the sensational tabloids—have had on the relationship between children, parents and social services departments. In recent years the media have dwelt too much on the rights of natural parents and have miserably failed to support the rights of the children. The circulation war and newspaper insensitivity has led to one-sided reporting with little redress for social services departments hampered by the constraints of necessary confidentiality. Sympathy has been heaped upon the hapless parents robbed of their children by a wicked social worker, and the removal of such children into secure adoptive homes has been criticised as social manipulation. The ability to produce children is not an automatic right, and even acceptable parenting. Children are a privilege, not a right, and human life is too precious to be jeopardised by totally inadequate parenting.

It is very easy for sentimental newspapers to be wise after the event. I certainly do not defend or want to make excuses for the appalling inadequacies of key workers in the tragic Jasmine Beckford case, but if social workers in recent years had been given greater backing to deal firmly with inadequate parents rather than having their confidence undermined by being regularly portrayed as ogres snatching children from their parents, then cases like this one might not have ended in tragedy.

As a society we have to decide, and decide quickly, how much we are prepared to risk the lives and well-being of our children. It is clearly difficult to get the balance right, but in my view at the moment there is rather too much emphasis on the rights of parents and not enough on the rights and welfare of children. Hand in hand with this must go the much improved training and professionalism in social services departments which you yourself advocate in your leader.

As a health visitor student I—and I am sure many others involved in community care—will not be prepared to accept "no answer" at the door, as a result of the Jasmine Beckford case. Our resolve to protect children from inadequate parents will be greatly strengthened, however, if we are not constantly faced by a barrage of antagonism from the media suggesting we are harassing parents and snatching their rights. — Yours faithfully, Nicola Whiggsworth, 21 Hillside, New Barnet, Herts.

Sir—Considering how social workers should "learn from the numerous child deaths among social service cases" in the wake of Jasmine Beckford, June Huntington proposes improved recording and regular supervision of children on every visit (Letters, Guardian, March 30), and your leading article proposes "tightening up procedures".

How social workers should "learn from the numerous child deaths among social service cases" in the wake of Jasmine Beckford, June Huntington proposes improved recording and regular supervision of children on every visit (Letters, Guardian, March 30), and your leading article proposes "tightening up procedures".

Moreover, any inference that our organisations' depressive attitude to the account of her discussions with the African National Congress and the AAM bear no relation to reality.

It exemplifies the enfeeblement to civic design which has bedevilled English architecture for three hundred years in spite of the best efforts of a few architects to bring in new ideas but whose grandest ideas have remained on paper. We should not be surprised that the National Gallery extension is to be designed in sympathy with Wilkins's blunder. It is ever since the rejection of Richard Rogers's scheme and the subsequent cobbling together of an inadequate alternative (design by proportional representation), it has been apparent that the trustees and the government lack the nerve to break away from impoverished historical

Why the home of democracy is 8,000 miles from Britain

Sir—Three years ago the people of the Falkland Islands (pop. 1,800; 8,000 miles from London) made an important decision about their future. They wanted to remain British. In defence of this democratic right, the government of the United Kingdom dispatched a gigantic fleet across the oceans, waged a war in which more than two thousand million pounds,

and proclaimed this to have been its duty in the face of intolerable interference from elsewhere.

Today the people of Sheffield (pop. 450,000; 100 miles from London) have also made a decision as regards their future. They want the right to decide for themselves how much money their local government can be allowed to spend in what way it shall spend it. Sheffield is not a spend-

thrif local authority. The city has substantial social problems; the highest proportion of elderly in any UK urban area; 43,000 unemployed; 30,000 on the housing waiting list; a large number of decaying properties. The scale of some of these problems is directly traceable to external meddling in our affairs—from Whitehall. Yet Sheffield has been described by the Audit Commission as an efficient

and exceptionally well run authority. The plain fact is that there is no room for cuts in Sheffield's budget; the city's services need to expand.

Where in the government's topsy-turvy reasoning is the democracy which ministers and the firebrands of Fleet Street so ardently pontificate about?

James McGuire, 100 Victoria Road, Sheffield.

being screened on Channel 4. The series was produced by Michael Maclear and based on his book of the same name, reporting, for example, the fact that some US servicemen chose to kill their own officers rather than be led in enthusiastic pursuit of an enemy they clearly regarded either as just in their cause or as soldiers (or possibly both).

It is a pity that Mr Maclear's series is scheduled in an obscure slot (Mondays at 2.35 pm) when it should occupy prime-time viewing. It should, moreover, be compulsory viewing for those among us who continue to believe that America's long, bitter and costly involvement in Vietnam produced anything but piles of bodies on both sides of the demarcation line. — Yours sincerely, H. Foxley, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.

Sir—Phil Braithwaite (Letters, April 3) must take the prize for literal-mindedness. The allusion to the severed children's arms in Apocalypse Now was not meant to

be factual, or a lately-invented pretext for invasion. The film, like its model, Conrad's Heart of Darkness, is a fictional moral statement, unrelated to any particular place or time. Seeing the pile of arms, Kurtz, Brando knew that his side could never overwhelm such strength of moral purpose because of the kind of people they had become.

The immense US war machine was, like the man-of-war in Conrad's novella, an agent of gesturing utility against a makeshift force, each member of which believed in its cause: "In the empty immensity of earth, sky, and water, there she was, incomprehensible, firing into a continent."

And this, because the individuals who made up the machine were themselves empty, a bundle of uncontrolled appetites, having no contact with their true heart: the earth, honest awareness, compassion, and dare one say it—God. — Yours faithfully, Laurence Inman, Kings Heath, Birmingham.

Sir—I was interested to see that your TV programme (April 4) spoke of Lloyd Webber's Requiem as "an unlikely hit" as I was wondering what the euphoria would be shattered by. Its originality is negligible and Sarah Brightman has a nice voice, but one cannot identify with the stings. How they must be cringing in the cathedral song-room up and down the country. — Yours faithfully, P. Wehman, Maidstone, Kent.

Sir—Your article on the Government's recommendation that levies be introduced on blank recording tape (not so heavy on the levy Humphrey, March 18) made a number of points that Sir Humphrey did not cover fully with his minister. First the assumption that people who own audio and video recorders agree with the idea of levies. In our experience and research, public opinion is firmly against the idea, and this is reflected in the new consumer campaign such as the National Consumer Council, and numerous other user groups.

The press, too, have been almost universal in their criticism of the principle of levies. The reason for the opposition centres on the "rough justice" of levies and the fact that the need has simply not been proven. Why should anyone buying a blank tape, for whatever purpose, be forced by law to pay what in effect is a private tax to subsidise the commercial interests of others, whether they breach copyright or not?

For example, independent research has shown that less than 1 per cent of television output is retained for repeated viewing. When it is, the justification for a levy? The majority of video usage is merely to time-shift—recording for viewing at a more convenient time. People have paid for the right to view television output, via their licence. A levy would force them to pay twice. And surely it is in the interests of commercial stations that the audience for their programmes—Is as large as possible?

Home taping is not as widespread as is claimed, nor does it have such a damaging effect as record companies have claimed. If home taping was such a universal practice, why then are sales of records and music cassettes booming again after several years' slump?

The second objection to the levy scheme centres on its administration. The Grams Paper skirts round this crucial yet highly complex issue. Levies will not only be cumbersome and very expensive to collect but who is going to receive the money? And in what proportion? Levies might on the surface appear reasonably straightforward. A detailed administrative nightmare—which I fear will simply create more problems than it seeks to solve. — Yours faithfully, Christopher Hobbs, (Chairman), The Tape Manufacturers Group, London W1P.

Sour note

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Sir, I used to teach English. I taught it for 13 years, and was only promoted once during that time while over all my salary finally diminished in real terms.

One of my former pupils wrote his way to an Academy Award recently. Seven others make all or a substantial part of their income in imaginative literature. Four have doctorates and lecture at universities. Perhaps three dozen more are involved in publishing, journalism, or ad copywriting.

At the other end—nominally—of the academic scale, I had a pupil about a half-dozen years ago who intended to repeat his Scottish English "O" level. He passed. It was the first English examination he'd ever passed. He was a preliminary He later got his "Higher", and now has a science degree. His performance was not wholly atypical. Of 26 pupils in his repeaters' class, 20 passed. Four had left school at Christmas time.

Let me suggest that the authority for having been an able English teacher. I think I know why not. I am bald on top and have a figure like George Smiley's. I have never owned sandals, desert boots, or a turtle-neck pull-over, and have always been impatient about using educational jargon.

I don't carry my effects busily about in a drawstring bag or a plastic shopper, and I don't carry my Guardian for all to see, hung up under my tank top.

I have helped to organise a CND chapter, but do not wear a badge. I vote Labour generally—and privately—but not if the candidate calls me "Jimmy" and nicks his nose—or if I like the Liberal candidate better.

I am not a participant in current strike action in Scotland, selectively directed against schools in Conservative ministerial constituencies. I am not a member of the Conservative Party, nor of the Labour Party, nor of the Liberal Party.

My colleagues or my superiors, I think I would just as soon pass and stay in another line of work. I know precious few of these folk who are worth shooting. But if we can work out an agreement by our former pupils, I might stick around for a while. — Yours John Withey, Newington, Edinburgh.

Sir—Regarding Victor Curtis's letter (Miscellany April 4) subtly shifting back-grounds are a recurring feature in Doonesbury. I have been so since fairly early in the strip's existence. Might this perhaps be a tribute to George Herriman's classic strip Krazy Kat, where a whole landscape would change from panel to panel "as if one commentator put it 'some inane stagehand had got hold of the levers controlling the change of background of the stage'?" — Yours, David Cottis, 169 College Road, Norwich, Norfolk.

Sir—The cuckoo (cuculus canorus) will not be shouted down by the lyrebird (menura novae-hollandiae) (Thechters). — Yours faithfully, G. E. Lowe, 41 Timberfields, Saughall, Chester.

these trees that are now under threat, because so much of the smaller scrub has already been burnt. It takes a very long time to produce a really picturesque oak, and it takes a vandal only a few minutes to cut it for hard wood, oaks in particular. And there is no lack of vandals. Farmers are always telling us that they are the true custodians of the countryside and that we can safely leave them to look after it. I hope some of them will begin to prove it by sending the firewood merchants packing.

WILLIAM CONDRY

Defence of the faiths

Sir—May I assure Rev. J. C. Edwards (Letters, March 30) that it was not my intention in Face to Faith (March 25) to mock Christianity in any way. I wished merely to point out that there is a tendency among Christians to assume that their religion is straightforward and self-evident, when compared to the apparent "peculiarities" of other religions.

I sought to suggest that from the perspective of a Hindu a Christian doctrine such as that of God as Trinity might appear at least as strange as, for instance, the Hindu understanding of "Brahman" appears to Christians.

It may be that in doing so I failed to do justice to the idea that "all works of the Trinity" are indivisible. But many Christians have found it difficult to do justice to this idea, not least in trying to come to terms with the idea of a created realm existing "outside" of God who is by definition omnipresent.

Mr Edwards rightly expects that a lecturer in religious studies should not oversimplify Christian doctrine. Hopefully he would be equally upset at any oversimplification of the ideas of other religions, whether or not a secularist circles.

A department of religious studies exists to study a wide range of the world's major religious traditions, with no particular emphasis on Christianity, and some of us feel that it is far more likely to be non-Christian religions which find themselves the victims of mockery, intentional or otherwise, and who often seem to have much less opportunity to communicate the richness of their religious traditions in the media than Christians have to communicate the richness of theirs. — Yours (Dr) Mark Corner, Department of Religious Studies, University of Newcastle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

ANC Chief Representative Des Starks, Chairman, 1973-84, Southern Africa, held Movement was founded a quarter of a century ago. Such activities have been a central focus of the AAM's work since its foundation and will continue to be so until South Africa is free. Solly Smith, ANC Executive Secretary, 13 Mandela Street, London NW1.

Tape traps

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SOCCER DIARY

Patrick Barclay

Platini's foolish move

MICHAEL PLATINI'S impending transfer from Juventus to Werder Bremen was not surprisingly the main item on West German television news.

It was quite a feather in the Bundesliga's cap as Platini, interviewed by camera crew in Turin, made clear. "I have been happy in Italy," he said, "but have always admired the standard of play in West Germany and hoped one day to test my ability there."

"I have achieved all that is possible with Juventus. The time has come for a fresh challenge. And Werder's offer is appealing because my style should blend well with that of Rudi Völler, a player I admire greatly."

Meanwhile Werder's players were shown toasting the transfer in champagne. Some predicted that, with Platini and Völler, the club could win the European Cup within two years.

The news was received with astonishment, doubly so when it spread to Italy. But then even April Fool's Day is conducted with Teutonic efficiency in the land of the Bundesjoke.

OAKWELL, home of Barnsley, is a smart, good-looking ground. Old-fashioned, I suppose, with few seats, but the important thing is that disabled people sit in comfort. And the beer in the social club tastes fine.

I just wish they'd show more confidence in their brew. Next to the bar, giving the impression that you're in a pub, hang two metal dispensers. One offers Aspro, the other Rennie.

A SMALL CLUB recently suffered a visitation of erratic violence in which, it was generally agreed, drunkenness played a part. A perfect case, you might think, for closing of their bars in line with Government thinking.

The trouble is that Grantham of the Northamptonshire League no longer have a bar. It was closed by market forces a year ago. A point which I hope the club's president, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, will bear in mind.

ANNIVERSARY greetings to Blackburn Rovers, who visit Leeds today, and Queen's Park, hosts to Arbroath in the Scottish Second Division. One hundred years ago, they staged the match of the century, a record 12,500 at Kennington Oval watching the pair's second successive FA Cup final.

Rovers won, but Bob Brown, formerly Guardian correspondent in Scotland, argues that the century really belongs to his beloved Queen's. "At the Oval they effectively rang the curtain down on an epoch," he says. "Within three months the FA had legalised professionalism. Queen's Park stood firm for amateurism, and still do."

The Glasgow club believed that the 1884 final should have been theirs by 3-2, two goals having been disallowed by Major Marindin at a time of cross-border differences over offside. The 1885 result was unquestioned.

David Lacey

Home comfort for Everton

AFTER the recent chain of major events at the top of the First Division, culminating in Everton's 2-1 win at Tottenham on Wednesday, the contest for the League championship is starting to acquire the marathon's most familiar pattern.

The leaders have some clear, one challenger is going for them, another is falling back, and the highest ambitions among the rest concern a bronze rather than silver or gold.

Of course a lot can happen yet. The First Division programme is not much more than three-quarters complete. But with only one fixture remaining which involves two of the top four clubs, Everton's home match against Liverpool—the issue now becomes essentially a matter of consistency.

Since this has been Everton's outstanding attribute all along, the chances of the title returning to Goodison Park for the first time since 1970 appear to be stronger than ever. However, Everton are confronted with an exhausting series of encounters in three competitions. Lesser workloads have confounded more accomplished teams.

Then again, Everton have established a wonderful base from which to launch themselves at the League, Cup, and FA Cup. Their four-point lead over Manchester United and six-point advantage over Spurs in the League means that their position at the top cannot be unseated while they are taking on Bayern Munich in the Cup-winners' Cup and Luton in the semi-finals of the FA Cup. All that United can hope to do is narrow the gap and win the Sheffield Wednesday on Tuesday.

This supposes that neither side slips up today in what appears to be straightforward

home matches. Certainly Everton should defeat struggling Sunderland, even though Bailey replaces suspended Van den Hauwe at left-back and Curran may have to come into their attack for the injured Gray, Wilkinson, the striker recently signed from Grimsby, is suspended. So far this season Everton have tended not to be caught in the "little" games, of which this is one. Sunderland expect to have Elliott, Gayle and Hodgson back in their team.

Manchester United, on the other hand, may find themselves looking back regretfully on points needlessly tossed away—out draws at the start of the season, winnable games lost at Sunderland and Nottingham Forest, and that incomprehensible defeat at Stoke on Boxing Day. Stoke visit Old Trafford this afternoon and may find Bryan Robson missing from the opposition.

The England captain could not train yesterday because of a recurrence of a recent Achilles tendon injury. Duxbury is standing by, and United also have a slight doubt about Strachan. Bertinich is back in Stoke's attack after a two-match suspension. Stoke, 18 points from a position of safety, may have gained that feeling of inner calm which sometimes makes teams without hopes dangerous opponents for those needing good results.

The handful of clubs immediately above Stoke face another month-and-a-half of mounting tension before their respective fates are decided. Ipswich's 2-1 win at West Bromwich on Wednesday has given them the chance to climb above Luton by beating Nottingham Forest at Portman Road this afternoon. However, Putney



BACK IN THE FRAY: Dickens (left) in West Ham's midfield, Bailey in defence for Everton

is out and Gates is doubtful, and Forest, still pursuing a UEFA Cup place after their surprising home defeat by West Ham, need a victory just as urgently.

Luton's game at Coventry has been postponed, and the Midlands club have also persuaded the League to call off Monday's match at Stoke because of the flu outbreak at Highfield Road. Stoke will play Luton instead, thus preserving the intrigue of the relegation struggle.

There is a horrible fascination about West Ham's decline. Their defence suffered a grim evening at Watford

on Tuesday, when they lost 5-0, and their Easter fixtures are both awkward London derbies.

Today West Ham face a Tottenham side who after two successive home defeats have to coordinate themselves that they are still serious championship contenders. Brooke, the Spurs substitute against Everton, is unfit and Hoddle is doubtful because of a twisted knee, but Chiedozie may return to the right wing. Dickens comes in for the injured Pike in West Ham's midfield, on Monday morning West Ham are away to Queen's Park Rangers.

With Birmingham beaten at Grimsby yesterday and Manchester City, Oxford United and Blackburn confronted by awkward away games at Barnsley, Cardiff and Leeds respectively, today's match at Fratton Park looks to be one of the Second Division's more significant fixtures.

Portsmouth expect a crowd of around 20,000 for their meeting with Brighton, who are unbeaten in seven games and cherish equal hopes of making a late dash for the First Division. Biley will lead their attack against his former colleagues.

Phil Shaw—Plymouth Argyle 1, Bristol City 0

Staniforth has City slithering

Bristol City's hopes of climbing to fourth place in the Third Division foundered in the Home Park mud yesterday. The Plymouth manager, Dave Smith, called in his programme notes for "a bit of rain and a bit of mud" but in conditions better suited to heavy artillery it was his smallest player, Staniforth, who gained due reward for an

afternoon of persistent sniping from time to time. Shaw, the City goalkeeper and the only player to survive the fall from First Division respectability to near-ruin in the Fourth, must shoulder the blame for Argyle's goal. His hitherto faultless display thought the winner's dipping cross was going over his bar, but the ball bobbed back into play off the woodwork, enabling Staniforth to shoot home from point-blank range.

Even then, City's belated barrage almost produced a point. With eight minutes left Curle, seemed to have made amends when his thunderous volley from 25 yards flew past Cradgington in the home goal only to rattle the bar and rebound into play. This time there was no one to apply the finishing touch.

A year ago Argyle spent Easter with their minds on the FA Cup semi-final and almost Against a City side who had won their previous three away

Swindon sack Macari

Lou Macari and Harry Gregg were yesterday dismissed as manager and assistant manager at Swindon because the Fourth Division club claimed that the two former Manchester United men were no longer able to work together.

John Trollope, previously in charge at Swindon but now the youth manager, takes over the team for today's home match against Southend. The Swindon chairman, Brian Hillier, said they would be looking for a replacement as early as possible.

Macari and Gregg joined Swindon last July after the insurance company Lowndes Lambert had told the club that they would be willing to provide the money to employ a player-manager of international repute. Swindon's results have improved this season but not sufficiently to give them a serious chance of promotion.

BRIAN Clough has signed a one-year extension to his contract at Nottingham Forest which will keep him at the City Ground until June 1987. Clough, now 50, celebrated 10 years at Forest in January. He said yesterday that he had been trying to get certain players to sign new contracts and hoped that he had now set them an example "by showing my faith in this club."

David Lacey



MACARI: Appointed last July

David Davies at Greensboro, North Carolina

Lyle shrugs off weather worries

GOLF

The course was familiar, the conditions totally alien for the European contingent in the second round of the Greater Greensboro Open at Greensboro, North Carolina, yesterday (Friday). Forest Oaks Country Club is a typical English-style parkland course, but few Britons ever have to cope with a 35 miles per hour wind blowing at the same time as the sun is generating 85 degrees.

It was all too much for Ken Brown who after a first round 79 needed to break 70 to have a chance of making the cut, but instead took 76. Nick Faldo struggled too, but despite being unhappy with his form on the greens, brought home a second round 72 and will qualify comfortably.

Meanwhile Sandy Lyle is doing his best to ignore the weather. His first round 67, five-under-par, was completed before the wind got up and, as he started at 7.30 am, before the sun began to shine so strongly Lyle birdied the first hole, the second round, three putted the fourth but birdied the seventh and at that time held the joint lead, with

Bobby Clampett and Jeff Sluman, at six-under for the tournament.

Lyle hit some astonishing shots on Thursday, even for a man who is accustomed to propelling the ball vast distances. On the ninth, some 74 yards, he hit a tee shot that went fully 350 yards and he completed the hole with a two iron shot that went 230 yards. He finished on the back of the green and almost holed the eagle putt.

All the par fives at Greensboro are a first round two, including the 558 yards 13th which he reached by hitting a one iron second 230 yards, all uphill.

When he is hitting the ball as well as that it is only a question of whether he can handle it. Lyle's tee shot yesterday, arguably the worst putter in Europe given his ability in other directions, got a few in. He actually holed the slippery, curly 25-footer from a place on the fourth green from which, on most days, he would have been odds on to take three.

Lyle has a new driver, a new sand wedge and a new putter this week and all three clubs are currently serving him well.

FIXTURES

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MACARI: Appointed last July

Paul Fitzpatrick on today's Cup semi-final

Castleford in the Wembley mood

RUGBY LEAGUE

Castleford is not the most glamorous of towns, certainly not one you would visit in search of Baroque architecture. Geoff Boycott bats there when he has a Saturday off from Yorkshire, and a quarry to the local authority about the town's outstanding characteristics brought a pause and the reply: "None that I would think of."

But included among its assets is a fine rugby league side which by 4 o'clock this afternoon could be savouring the prospect of a Challenge Cup final appearance against Wigan at Wembley on May 4, their first since 1970 and the days of Hepworth and Hardisty, Hartley, Lockwood, and Rilly.

Hull, formidable opponents, bar their way, but Castleford are of the stature to trap Hull and Wigan like quicksand, can consider their prospects better than hopeful.

The curious thing about Castleford, which remained in that unforgettable 1982 Australian strike, is that their players so often do not mirror the harsh background which has fashioned them. On their day they are the most artistic side in the business, passing and running the ball with a dexterity that can be spellbinding. They can also be distractingly unpredictable.

Geoffrey Green described the goal by Jimmy Greaves as being as smooth as the closing of the door of a Rolls Royce.

Paul Fitzpatrick—Wigan 19, St Helens 30

Wigan crumble

There was many a muttering of "rubbish" as disappointed Wigan supporters in the crowd of 20,012 left Central Park where St Helens inflicted a fourth successive defeat on the Challenge Cup finalists yesterday. The score and pattern of the match were not dissimilar to last October when St Helens beat Wigan 26-18 in the Lancashire Cup final.

Midway through the first half it appeared that St Helens, strengthening their own claims to the championship with this victory, would win with ease. Goals opened invigoratingly in Wigan's defence, and the St Helens players poured through them eagerly.

Stephenson had opened the scoring with a dropped goal in the fifth minute, but by the 22nd minute Veivers, Platt, appearing in a fluent handling more twice, and Holding, had gone over for tries. Day had landed a penalty, added the goal points to two of the tries and the St Helens were almost out of sight at 18-4.

But they became careless, and even Wigan side playing with as much self-doubt as themselves at present, were quick to seize on their opponents' generosity. Mick Ford fed Kenny in the 33rd minute and, although the Australian stand-off appeared surrounded, he suddenly stroked clean past a group of gaping St Helens defenders.

Soon afterwards he scored an even simpler try when he intercepted Pinner's pass 35 yards out and ran unhindered to the posts. Stephenson added the goal points to both tries and at 13-13, contest in danger of losing its interest was brought excitingly back to life. Five points was as close as

The running and try scoring of John Joyner has a similar quality. There is a clever, forward playing "than Barrie" Johnson, a prop forward who can open up defences with passes subtle enough to bewilder spectators as well as opponents.

One remembers Castleford on a January night at Knowsley Road three years ago running St Helens silly with a display of fast, coordinated, imaginative rugby that remained, one of the most perfect statements of the artistry to which rugby league can aspire. Six days later they were thrashed by Hull Kingston Rovers.

Even their most ardent devotees find it difficult to explain this style of the roller coaster. If they could achieve consistency they would be formidable, but their supporters are forced to wonder from one match to another which mood will take them.

If Hull reach the final it will be their fourth appearance at Wembley since 1980, and would bring the enticing prospect of seeing Peter Sterling (along with John Muggleton, his brother-in-law) and Brett Kenny, half back partner in that unforgettable 1982 Australian strike and colleagues at Parramatta, on opposite sides.

Hull have opted for the 18-year-old Neil Puckering in the pack. But any lack of experience there will be compensated for elsewhere. I think Hull should possess the all-round expertise to carry this contest. But, for the neutral follower, there will be a sense of disappointment if Castleford were to take their rare, if unpredictable, talents to Wembley.

Paul Fitzpatrick—Wigan 19, St Helens 30

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Reg No. 884256

Prost in the driving seat

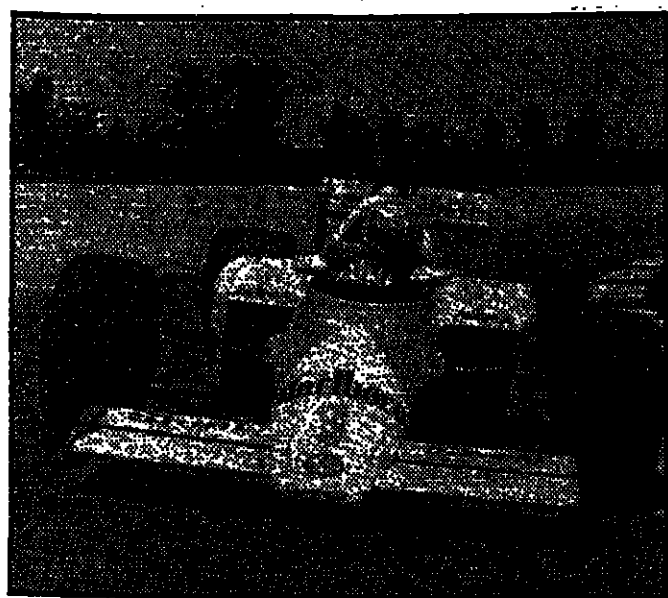
Maurice Hamilton previews the Grand Prix season which opens in Brazil tomorrow and (right) analyses the teams and their chances

MARLBORO McLaren made a nonsense of the business of writing seasonal previews last year. The team from Woking appeared to be in a turmoil after their latest car managed only the briefest of trials before shipment to the first Grand Prix of the season in Brazil.

Alain Prost had joined McLaren and it was suspected his relationship with Niki Lauda would cause unrest within a team known to be struggling with the complex but vital fuel-control systems on the TAG engine. They might, if they were lucky, win a couple of races later in the year.

McLaren won in Brazil and went on to repeat the feat 11 times, locking up the championship for Prost and Lauda to fight over in the last race. Lauda won the title by half a point although Prost won more races and, after such a devastating performance, the Frenchman is clear favourite to win the championship this year. Prost, however, is aware of the pitfalls of such an obvious prediction.

"We won last year because our car was good right from



JUST TESTING: Lauda with this year's McLaren at Rio

the start," he explains. "Once the season started, with races every fortnight, the other teams did not have time to catch up. But now we have had a break of five months and the competition has had time to act. We have made improvements on our new car, of course, but what we don't know is whether they are good enough."

Prost wisely avoids mentioning the results of test sessions in Italy and Brazil. It's not that McLaren failed to impress, but Prost is aware of the false impression frequently created by these unofficial trials. Not everyone may have been trying to set a time on qualifying tyres and the first accurate indication of form for 1985 will not emerge until the final practice session in Rio de Janeiro this afternoon.

Regardless of Prost's reservations and the outcome of

THE CALENDAR

Tomorrow — Brazil (Rio); April 21 — Portugal (Estoril); May 5 — San Marino (Imola, Italy); May 19 — Monaco (Monte Carlo); June 2 — Belgium (Spa-Francorchamps); June 16 — Canada (Montreal); June 23 — United States (Detroit); July 7 — France (Rivarolo); July 14 — Great Britain (Silverstone); August 4 — Germany (Hockenheim); August 18 — Austria (Spielberg); August 25 — Italy (Imola); September 1 — Switzerland (Thruxton); September 8 — Brazil (Jacarepaguá); September 15 — Australia (Adelaide); September 22 — South Africa (Kyalami).

the first round of the championship tomorrow, McLaren are likely to be in contention for the title when the season closes, 15 races later, in South Africa.

Prost and Lauda are acutely aware of the need for consistency and it is the possible absence of such a basic ingredient in a racing driver's make-up that could spell the downfall of Ayrton Senna, one of the most brilliant talents to have emerged in recent years.

Senna found little difficulty in jumping straight from Formula 3 to Grand Prix racing last year and his deft handling of the Toleman-Hart belied his lack of experience. He finished second in Monaco and his switch to JPS Lotus for 1985 creates the potential for the first win for the British team since 1982.

Last year, McLaren ran on Michelin tyres and the withdrawal by the French company means that McLaren, along with Renault and Ligier, have spent the winter becoming accustomed to the different characteristics of Goodyear's products. Lotus, like Ferrari, are more familiar with Goodyear and it is seemingly insignificant variables such as this which could tip the balance and make predictions even more difficult than usual.

The teams and the drivers

McLAREN

Numbers: 1 and 2.
Drivers: Niki Lauda (Aust.) and Alain Prost (Fr.).
Engine: TAG turbo V6.
After the team's domination of 1984, Prost starts as favourite. Question mark over Lauda's motivation now that he has won the championship yet again and proved all there is to prove after making his comeback. If he supports Prost, then McLaren could become the first team since Brabham in 1987 to win the championship two years in succession.

TYRRELL

Numbers: 3 and 4.
Drivers: Martin Brundle (Eng.) and Stefan Bellof (Ger.).
Engines: Ford-Cosworth V6 and Renault turbo V6.
The last-minute deal with Renault elevates a team with two promising young drivers from the role of non-qualifier (with the Cosworth engine) to a formidable force. Tyrrell, now recovered from the political and legal wrangles of 1984, will not have the benefit of the turbo car until later in the season.

WILLIAMS

Numbers: 5 and 6.
Drivers: Nigel Mansell (Eng.) and Keke Rosberg (Fin).
Engine: Honda turbo V6.
Mansell joins a highly professional team recovering from a development year with the Honda engine. A critical season for the former Lotus driver who will be hard-pressed to keep pace with the ebullient Rosberg.

BRABHAM

Numbers: 7 and 8.
Drivers: Nelson Piquet (Braz.) and Francois Hesnault (Fr.).
Engine: BMW turbo.
Chose Pirelli to replace

Michelin after the French company's withdrawal, rather than follow the popular path to Goodyear. This could be Brabham's trump card—or their downfall. The latest Brabham looks the part and Piquet is at the peak of his form. Hesnault moves from Ligier but unlikely to develop his considerable talent; No.2 drivers at Brabham rarely do.

RAM

Numbers: 9 and 10.
Drivers: Manfred Winkelhock (Ger.) and Philippe Alliot (Fr.).
Engine: Hart turbo.
The British team have finally got a capable designer and the backing they deserve. With the future of the Toleman team in doubt, RAM will be the



PROST: clear favourite

leading representative for the excellent Hart engine from Harlow.

LOTUS

Numbers: 11 and 12.
Drivers: Elio de Angelis (Italy) and Ayrton Senna (Braz.).
Engine: Renault turbo V6.
If Renault can provide sufficient power and reliability Lotus will have everything going for them. Senna's impatience to succeed will require a tight rein, but his brilliance will spur de Angelis to use his fine blend of skill more often.

RENAULT

Numbers: 15 and 16.
Drivers: Patrick Tambay (Fr.) and Derek Warwick (Eng.).
Engine: Renault turbo V6.
Under pressure to win the championship after a disastrous season last year. The end of a seven-year association with Michelin will not help, and neither will a change in team management. Tests indicate that the latest car was designed by a committee—which, in many ways, sums up Renault's problems.

ARROWS

Numbers: 17 and 18.
Drivers: Gerhard Berger (Aust.) and Thierry Boutsen (Belg.).
Engine: BMW turbo V6.
Arrows may, at last, be on the threshold of a breakthrough. The latest car has been very competitive during testing and their drivers, particularly Boutsen, possess the talent to give the British team more than the meagre six points scored last year.

TOLEMAN

Numbers: 19 and 20.
Drivers: Stefan Johansson (Sweden) and John Watson (N. Ire.).
Engine: Hart turbo V6.
Will not race in Brazil and unlikely to appear elsewhere unless either Pirelli or Goodyear provide the British team with tyres. Such a farcical situation highlights the political backstabbing behind the scenes in Formula 1. Toleman have finally built a car with race-winning potential—which perhaps explains the reluctance of other teams to come to their aid.

SPIRIT

Number: 21.
Driver: Mauro Baldi (Italy).
Engine: Hart turbo V6.
This British team is aptly named. They deserve points for trying to race on a budget which would be considered petty cash by their heavyweight rivals.

ALFA ROMEO

Numbers: 22 and 23.
Drivers: Riccardo Patrese (Italy) and Eddie Cheever (USA).
Engine: Alfa Romeo turbo V8.
Patrese appears to have lost his competitive edge, but Cheever retains his boyish enthusiasm and should score points, provided Alfa Romeo have solved their chronic fuel-consumption problems.

OSELLA

Number: 24.
Driver: Piercarlo Ghinzani (Italy).
Engine: Alfa Romeo turbo V8.
Another small team struggling on a minimal budget. Unlikely to

influence the outcome of the championship, although Ghinzani is more capable than his results suggest.

LIGIER

Numbers: 25 and 26.
Drivers: Andrea de Cesaris (Italy) and Jacques Laffite (Fr.).
Engine: Renault turbo V6.
Ligier's recent uncompetitive cars should be cured now that Laffite has returned after a spell with Williams and top management from Renault have joined this small French team.

FERRARI

Numbers: 27 and 28.
Drivers: Michele Alboreto (Italy) and Rene Arnoux (Fr.).
Engine: Ferrari turbo V6.



SENN: brilliant talent

Could be on the point of returning to race-winning form after a dismal season. Ferrari have a sense of direction again now that unrest in the technical department has been cured by personnel changes. Arnoux and Alboreto's abundant talent should be evident in the latest cars. Ferrari continues the progress shown during testing.

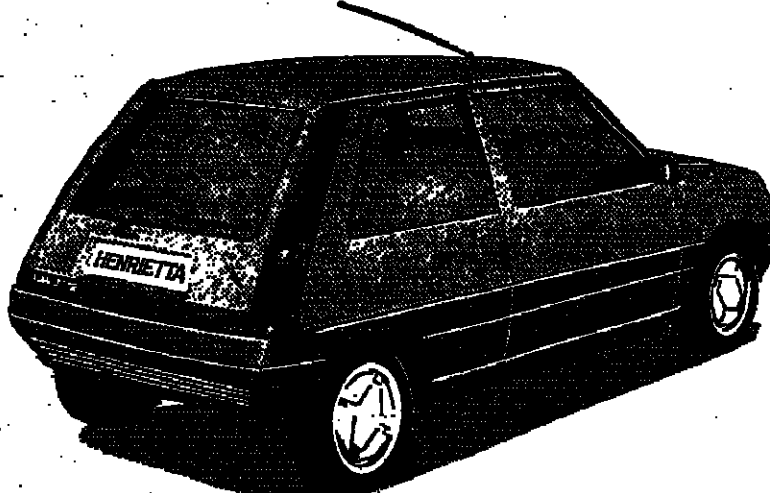
MINARDI

Number: 29.
Driver: Pierluigi Martini (Italy).
Engines: Ford Cosworth V8 and Motori Moderni turbo V6.
Joining Formula 1 without having distinguished themselves in Formula 2. Will find Grand Prix racing an uphill struggle with either the non-turbo Cosworth or the new MM turbo.

ZAKSPEED

Number: 30.
Driver: Jonathan Palmer (Eng).
Engine: Zakspeed turbo V4.
Zakspeed, new to Formula 1, appear to be taking the suicidal course of designing and constructing their own engines as well as trying to build a car to compete with the remarkably high standards set by the established team. A brave move by Palmer, who at least has the patience to persevere and the technical ability to help tackle the many problems certain to arise. The German team will appear for the first time in Portugal.

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What's yours called?



BRIDGE

Rixi Markus

HAVING STRUGGLED throughout most of the round robin stage of the Seventh World Team Olympiad in Seattle, the British Ladies' team finished strongly to reach the semi-finals. There, as I reported last Saturday, they annihilated the Netherlands who had finished at the top of the qualifying group, so Britain lined up against the strongly fancied US team in the final.

The US began the final with a lead of 22½ imp — the score which they carried forward from the match between the two teams in the qualifying round. But the British had at last found their best form, and they were soon gnawing away at the American lead.

This was the seventh board of the final, dealt by North at game all.

NORTH
♠ Q773
♥ 10
♦ A Q1072
♣ K53

WEST
♠ A82
♥ A432
♦ K543
♣ J9

EAST
♠ KQ855
♥ J9
♦ A7652

SOUTH
♠ K J1094
♥ 86
♦ Q104

This was the bidding in the Open Room, where Britain held the East-West cards:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
Michell Davies Moss Smith

NE INT NE NE
NE 2H NE 2C (1)
NE 2H NE 2C (2)

(1) A transfer bid, showing five or more hearts and asking the opener to convert to 2H.
(2) A natural game try, showing at least four clubs and inviting partner to bid 3NT or 4H, or to sign off in 3H.

Pat Davies made exactly nine tricks to score +140 for Britain.

In the Closed Room, it soon became apparent that the British North-South pair did not have the same high requirements for opening bids as Gail Moss and Jacqui Mitchell.

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
Moss Davies Lady Kennedy
2S1 1S
NE NE 4S(2) 1S

(1) Showing either a very strong hand or a good raise to at least 2H.
(2) Showing characteristic aggression; in my view, a raise to 3S would have been quite sufficient at this point.

There was a lot of work to be done in 4S, but Sally Horrold played the contract with her normal skill to land ten tricks. A further +620 and +13 i.m.p. to Britain.

After 16 boards of the 64-board Final, Britain had reduced the margin to 9½ i.m.p. However, the US got back 17 i.m.p. on Board 18, dealt by East with North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J185
♥ 752
♦ A Q10
♣ KQ22

WEST
♠ K9
♥ Q84
♦ J7632
♣ J4

EAST
♠ 73
♥ Q82
♦ 954
♣ 108753

SOUTH
♠ Q942
♥ A J10
♦ K8
♣ A9

For Britain, Sarah Scarborough and Gillian Scott-Jones reached the inferior contract of 6NT, and went one down when West led the king of hearts and the spade finesse lost.

At the other table, Gail Moss became the declarer in the more flexible contract of 6S. She won the heart lead with the ace and cashed three rounds of diamonds, discarding a heart. She then played three rounds of clubs to pitch her last heart, but West ruffed with the nine of spades.

After ruffing the third club, Sandra Landy exited with a diamond, hoping that declarer would ruff in dummy and take the spade finesse. However, Gail Moss was suspicious. Why had West conceded a ruff and discard rather than exiting with the more obvious heart? The only possible reason was that she wanted to allow dummy to gain the lead, and South thought she knew why. She ruffed in hand and cashed the ace of spades, dropping the king and scoring +1430 for the US.

After 64 boards, the score was 109½-99 to the US. Britain had won the final by 99-87 i.m.p., but the carry-forward score had been decisive.

© Rixi Markus



CHESS

Leonard Barden

L'AFFAIRE SMAGIN, where a young Moscow master had his final round game compulsorily adjudicated, thus denying him a possible place in the world interzonals to the benefit of Karpov's chief aide Yuri Balashov, may well dominate all reports on the latest USSR championship. In a delayed final account for the Soviet sports newspaper, the chief judge merely noted that a panel had adjudicated Smagin's game with the sick veteran Gurgendze, without trying to justify the decision beyond "special circumstances". The tournament cross-table was presented in such a way (tied players in alphabetical order) as to smudge the fact that Balashov would have been the unlucky man if Smagin had played on and won.

This strange incident aside, the Russian title contest maintained its reputation among the most competitive events in the world. Several strong GMs, already seeded to the interzonals, were absent, and some entrants clearly aimed just to qualify with minimal risk—but there were still many fine games in a daring, tactical style. Two interesting wins:

French Defence (USSR 1985)
1 P-Q4 P-K3 2 P-K4 P-Q4
3 N-Q2 N-KB3 4 P-K3 N-N2
5 B-Q3 P-QB4 6 P-QB3 N-QB3
7 N-K2 P-P 8 P-K2 N-K3
9 B-Q2 10 P-B4 P-KR4

Black is trying to play the Leningrad system of a light-square blockade with an extra pawn by missing out ... P-KN3.

N-KB3 R-E1 12 P-Q2 P-R4
A complex plan: simpler a move earlier was 11... N-N5 12 B-N1 B-N4.
13 N-B3 N-B5 14 P-B3 N-B5
15 P-B3 Q-Q2 16 P-B1 B-K2
17 Q-K1 N-NP. 18 B-N Qx5
The net return from Black's variation on Leningrad strategy is just a dubious poisoned pawn. Now White shows that the real action zone is the central files.

19 NcP: P-N 20 P-K5 B-QB3
21 P-P ch K-B1 22 N-K3 R-B3
23 Q-K3 Q-N3
Black is in dire straits, for if B-B3 24 Q-R-K1 BxN 25 QxR QxRP 26 P-R5 P-P 27 P-K2 R-B3 QxR and Q-R8 mate. After the text White misses the clear win 24 N-N6 ch! RxN 25 P-R B-B3 26 RxB7 B-B3 27 Q-K2 B-Q2 28 P-B5 B-N4 29 Bx7 BxQ White's queen sacrifice is sound and he soon regains material with a won ending—but quicker was 29 QxP! Q-R5 30 Q-R7!

30 RxB B-B4 31 B-Q7 N-B3
32 R-N P-B 33 K-R-K1 Q-Q6
34 RxB QxNP 35 P-B5 ch R-P 36 R1-K7 ch K-B3 37 B-B5 ch K-B3 38 R-Q KxRN3 Resigns

GM Viktor Karpovchik—GM Evfim Geller

Ray Lopez (USSR, 1985)

1 P-K4 P-K4 2 N-KB3 N-QB3
3 B-N5 P-QB3 4 B-K1 P-QN4
5 Q-Q3 B-K2 6 P-QB4 P-N5
7 P-B3 Q-Q2 8 P-QB4 P-N5
9 P-Q4 P-Q3 10 P-P P-P
11 QN-Q2 B-N2 12 Q-K2 N-Q5
13 Q-B4 B-Q3 14 B-N P-N1
15 P-B3 N-N5 16 Q-QP N-KP
17 R-N7 B-N2 18 Q-B5 B-K1
19 Q-N3 B-K5 ch 20 Resigns

The veteran Geller, now 60, outsmarts his opponent in cut-and-thrust tactics. White saw too late that if 20 B-B1 RxN ch! No. 1,859



White mates in four moves at latest, against any defence (by F. Giegold, 1976). The late Fritz Giegold specialised in problem settings which the average solver would find curious and entertaining. Some earlier readers described this puzzle as "not difficult, but clever". However, one unfortunate man sweated over the diagram for ten days.

With the solution due in next Saturday's paper, there's no danger of any Guardian reader taking too long.

Solution No. 1,348: White K at Q2, R at Q6 and KR4, P at Q3, K3 and KB2. Black K at K4, N at Q4 and KB4. P at Q5, QB5, K5 and KR2. White to play, mate in four.



KARPOV: Was his aide aided?

MOTOR SPORT: Sweden's Bjorn Waldegard, in a Toyota Turbo, took the lead in Kenya's Safari Rally yesterday after a dramatic first night in which the remaining Audi Sport Quattro, driven by Finn Hannu Nikkila, was forced out. Thirty of the 71 cars which started the five-day event on Thursday, have withdrawn.

David Irvine reports from Monte Carlo

Lendl in a hurry

TENNIS

Ivan Lendl insists that his semi-final in the Monte Carlo Open today is "just another match."

Yet the Czech, who is at the tournament only under duress — he admits he tried everything to get out of it — would be less than human if he could block out the memory of the last time he and the young Swede met on a clay court in September.

The occasion then was the Davis Cup semi-final and the setting Bastad, where after two hours Lendl was in full cry and leading by two sets and 3-0, 40-0. It was then, as he recalled it, that Sundström "suddenly stopped missing." And in one of the most remarkable cup turnarounds in recent times took 18 of the last 20 games for a victory which, in retrospect, was as important as his dramatic win over John McEnroe in the final.

"I should prefer it if the match was on a hard court, or indoors," Lendl admitted. He also lost to Sundström in the quarters here last year when he retired injured. "But if I improve as much as I did in my match today (he destroyed the Italian, Francesco Panzani, 6-2, 6-1). I think my chances are good."

On a raw blustery day, when the grey Mediterranean, far be-

low the centre court, could be heard crashing against the rocks, Sundström seemed equally secure in beating the West German. Michael Westphal, 6-4, 6-2. Although he began his defence tentatively, he had clearly profited from a hard three-set win over Guillermo Vilas.

Attitudes, rather than form, may well decide the match. Sundström is only too happy to be back on slow clay. Lendl, who has had to fit this European whistle-stop between a cement event (which he won) at Fort Myers and next week's WCT indoor final in Dallas, was still moaning yesterday about what he called "totally unreasonable timetables."

Both the men's Professional Tennis Council, who shape the tour and make player designations, and his own union, the ATP, came in for sharp criticism. The former, he said, were too preoccupied by the size of logos on socks and wristbands to organise a proper timetable while the latter took too little notice of what their members wanted.

Lendl echoed an old tune by calling for the tour to be organised on lines similar to the motor racing grand prix. He thought players should be given freedom of choice about which events they supported. "At the moment, now I don't know what's going on, so how can members of the public follow it?"

He was less worried, however, about going back indoors next week than having to

move from cement to clay. For all that, his three appearances so far have been uniformly impressive and he has yet to drop a set. Cancellotti lasted 75 minutes and never had a break point.

In steadily worsening conditions Labor Turck never came to terms with a gusting wind or Mats Wilander, just managed to finish a 6-3, 6-1 victory before the rain set in. "I can't remember when I last played with the consistency I've found here," the Swede said. His last tournament success was the Australian Open on grass five months ago.

Because of the rain the last of the quarter-finals was switched indoors. The fourth seed, Aaron Krickstein of the United States, dropped the first set to Tomas Smid but then recovered to win 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 and will now play Wilander.

AGONY CARLO OPEN TOURNAMENT. — Men's Singles, Quarter-Finals: Ivan Lendl (Czech) beat F. Panzani (Italy) 6-2, 6-1, 6-1; Michael Westphal (FRG) beat Guillermo Vilas (ARG) 6-4, 6-2; Mats Wilander (SWE) beat Francesco Panzani (ITA) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1; Mats Wilander (SWE) beat Mats Wilander (SWE) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1.

CHICAGO CLASSIC GP. — Men's Singles, Second Round (US mixed event): J. McEnroe (USA) beat J. McEnroe (USA) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1; J. McEnroe (USA) beat J. McEnroe (USA) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1; J. McEnroe (USA) beat J. McEnroe (USA) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1.

PRINCETON 16 & UNDER CHAMPIONSHIPS (Continued). — Boys' Singles, Semi-Finals: J. McEnroe (USA) beat J. McEnroe (USA) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1; J. McEnroe (USA) beat J. McEnroe (USA) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1.



ACTION MAN... Ivan Lendl stretches for a backhand. Picture by Kenneth Saunders

TABLE TENNIS

Richard Eaton
in Gothenburg

Douglas loses his way

The case for a change in the format of the triennial 11 day world championships was strengthened when half of the 32 players seeded to reach the third round here yesterday failed to do so, Douglas among them.

The Commonwealth champion from Birmingham led by two games and 17-all, then faltered to defeat to Kim Song Hui, a 17-year-old from Pyongyang, who wound himself up like a small toy and sprang a startling succession of left-handed loops at breakfast speech pace done of the most renowned blockers in the game.

"It was the fastest loop in the building," said England captain Ronald Parker, who had hoped that Douglas, given two days off during his 16 wins out of 19 in the team event, might at last do well in a world championship men's singles in which he never got past the last 16.

A final drop of adrenaline got Douglas back from 12-18 to 18-18 in the fifth game but he could fire himself no more. The North Korean won 11-31, 17-21, 21-18, 21-18, 21-16. He had not been entered, let alone played, in the team event.

"The fact is the world championships are firing and too long," said chairman of the English selectors Peter Charters. "Some change needs thinking about because mentally it is too hard for many players to keep raising themselves. Probably none of the leading Europeans will reach the later stages." Among the other celebrated victims were Pole Andrzej Grubba trophy, two of the Swedes, Ulf Bengtsson, the European champion, and Jan-Ove Waldner, the European top 12 champion, and the leading Japanese Kiyoshi Sakito.

Another loser was Lisa Bellingier, England's other national champion. She had been required to struggle through three qualifying matches and four wins in all before losing 13-21 22-20 18-21 16-21 to the European No. 3 from the Soviet Union, Filizula Sulatova.

Clem Thomas — Penarth 14, Barbarians 48

Morris salvages Penarth pride

RUGBY UNION

In the light of Penarth's record this season — one win in 36 games, 175 points scored and 1,405 conceded — this fixture may have been seen as anachronistic as a West Indies cricket tour of Corfu.

The Barbarians were never in any danger of the indignity of ending Penarth's unenviable run of 25 games without a win, although after accumulating 30 inexcusable points in the first half, they had to struggle in the second period against a spirited Penarth revival, managed only 18 points to 14.

Nevertheless this win, by four goals and six tries to a goal and two tries, was both emphatic and unique; in the 62 points scored there was not a single point scored by the curse of modern rugby, the penalty goal.

It took the Barbarians six minutes to start the scoreboard clicking when a forward drive from the lineout and a well-worn ruck saw Penarth put Wyndham Evans on a try converted by Metcalfe. For the rest of the half they swept the ball about bressibly and scored more tries by Goodwin (2), Simpson, Metcalfe and Harrison with Metcalfe converting three.

With the wind at their backs in the second half, Penarth proceeded to rescue themselves

from ignominy. Dudderidge almost put Penarth over in the corner and from the resultant scrum a clearance kick by Harrison was snapped up by Morris, the No. 8, who stumped over for a try in the corner. It was magnificently converted by Dai Rees.

Penarth continued to embarrass the Barbarians with stirring running and handling attacks, and a clever overhead pass by the flanker Wilson sent the winger Scottie Palmer, who replaced Goodwin, who went off with a hamstring, then made a try for Harrison.

With the last quarter played in a deluge, Wyke scored another try for the Barbarians, converted by Metcalfe, but then Dai Rees got another for Penarth after clever approach work by the outside-half, Powell.

Finally, Morris and Harrison scored two more tries for the Barbarians, who by no means had their own way in a well contested second half.

Penarth: W. Evans, S. Price, W. Morgan, D. Rees, S. Dudderidge, J. Powell, C. Lewis, G. Swaine, P. Davies, V. Crane, K. Foster, L. Scott, C. Wilson, R. Morris, R. Harrison (Capt.), A. Metcalfe (Manager), U. Harrison (Wing), D. S. White (Fly-half), M. Morris (Prop), S. D. White (Scrum-half), G. Swaine (Hooker), J. Powell (Prop), C. Lewis (Prop), P. Davies (Prop), V. Crane (Prop), K. Foster (Prop), L. Scott (Prop), C. Wilson (Prop), R. Morris (Prop), R. Harrison (Prop), A. Metcalfe (Prop), U. Harrison (Prop), D. S. White (Prop), M. Morris (Prop), S. D. White (Prop), G. Swaine (Prop), J. Powell (Prop), C. Lewis (Prop), P. Davies (Prop), V. Crane (Prop), K. Foster (Prop), L. Scott (Prop), C. Wilson (Prop), R. Morris (Prop), R. Harrison (Prop), A. Metcalfe (Prop), U. Harrison (Prop), D. S. White (Prop), M. Morris (Prop), S. D. White (Prop), G. Swaine (Prop), J. Powell (Prop), C. Lewis (Prop), P. Davies (Prop), V. Crane (Prop), K. Foster (Prop), L. Scott (Prop), C. Wilson (Prop), R. 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Bagging a pheasant used to be the privilege of the Country Life set — now game birds are finding their way on to the family dining table. Jenny Richards reports

When the alternative to black chicken is white pheasant

BACK in the days of the turkey, the idea of a spring turkey seemed futuristic. But this month Bernard Matthews, the Henry Ford of the poultry world, is hoping to sell thousands of the beast. The theme of his TV advertising campaign is evolution, and the subliminal message is this: the natural way for the poultry industry to develop.

The chicken industry has already evolved in much the same way. In 1928, the Republicans in America promised to "put a chicken in every pot" — an emotive election pledge because it was still a comparative luxury. It remained so until the fifties, when intensive broiler production often misleadingly termed battery — (that's just for eggs) finally took chicken from a status food to commodity. In Britain we now eat over a million a day.

But in spite of Mr Matthews, many people believe that what's happened to poultry is not evolution but degradation. This is not to deny the achievements of an industry that's now put chicken and turkey in every pot. But along the way, broilers have lost much of their texture and taste. It doesn't take a food addict to recognise they're boring.

So another kind of evolution is taking place: the raising of more unusual, or at least more tasty kinds of bird, from black chicken to white pheasant. You can now find over-ready quail, pheasant, guinea fowl, and even native breeds on the shelves of several of the multiples. And specialty chicken and turkey, along with more fatty birds like duck and geese, are also putting on sales.

They still represent a mere fraction of the poultry market. But sales of specialty poultry are helped by the popularity of all poultry. Consumption of chicken rose by over 1,200 per cent between 1950 and 1980. A more recent

stimulus has been a growing recognition that poultry is a relatively healthy food. The National Advisory Committee on Nutrition and Education report which linked diet to heart disease recommended cutting back on meats high in saturated fats, and switching instead to more white meat and poultry.

Chicken and turkey are low in fat and what fat they do have lies under the skin, where it is easy to discard. Even the fat on ducks and geese, although profuse, is less saturated than the red meat kind. And poultry is amenable to the less fatty ways of cooking, like stewing and casseroles.

Game birds, particularly wild ones, are noticeably low in fat. But they also taste bland, than factory-farmed chicken and turkey. Pheasant, guinea fowl, partridge, and quail have a natural advantage of maturing earlier than chicken, so that the taste is fully developed before they're killed.

Bagging a pheasant used to be the privilege of the Country Life set and their City guests. But rearing pheasants for the weekend shoot has become a popular hobby. One six-week pheasant chick will cost the gamekeeper £2, only £1 or so less than the price of an adult bird at the butcher's. Many farmers shoot straight to a game dealer.

Hardwick Game Larder in Bury St Edmunds is one of the most successful, processing up to 50,000 pheasants a season. It supplies restaurants and retailers all over the country with over-ready birds, fresh, smoked, or frozen.

"For 40 years our main business has been as a hatchery supplying farmers with young birds," says manager Andrew Brown. "We only started the processing side in 1982, and it's taken off from there. Apart from the wild game they buy in from shoots, they also hatch, rear and kill

two to three thousand quail a week, mainly for restaurants.

Andrew Brown relates their success to a more adventurous spirit in British cooking. "A lot of people eat boring food with supermarket produce," he claims. "But they've never quite liked to try game before, because of all the fuss and business of plucking and drawing the birds. We offer them oven-ready birds, cleaned, eviscerated, wrapped, no trouble at all. All they've got to do is cook them."

Guinea fowl is another exotic bird that's found its way into the British kitchen. David Cairns, who runs Ark Foods in Suffolk, reports sales up 30 per cent last year. He attributes the popularity of guinea fowl to a native of Africa — not only its low fat content but to its value: "A 2lb 3oz bird has as much edible meat on it as a 4lb duck."

Guinea fowl has a unique, slightly gamey flavour which can be accentuated by careful hanging for two or three days. David Cairns can only hang birds for individual orders, though he'd far rather hang them all. EEC regulations governing licensed slaughterhouses outlaw the practice when it comes to processing large numbers at a time. "It's absurd," he protests. "The regulations are designed to produce hospitalised, sterile meat. A butcher's allowed to hang his beef to develop the flavour, why can't the poultryman do the same? You don't think they'd worry about any silly EEC regulations in France, do you? The French housewife knows how to get what she wants — and that's taste."

Chicken didn't always taste so bland. The 4lb chicken of the fifties took about four months to grow. It ate 12lbs of food — mainly grains — and pecked around for grubs and insects. Its cosseted 1980s counterpart reaches the same weight in half the time. On the way it consumes just 2lb of "enriched" food. In such a short lifespan, it doesn't have much opportunity to develop muscles. It spends most of its



Basil Bayne, who breeds white pheasants in Ulster — picture by Crispin Rodwell

time just sitting around, trying to digest its enriched diet. Its flesh, in consequence, can be described as tender or pappy, subtly flavoured or insipid — depending on whether you're selling or sampling.

The French, as usual, have reminded us that chicken can still have a distinct flavour of its own. They persuaded chefs and customers of chic London restaurants to try out their yellow-fleshed "poulets de grain." Then Proust, in his *À la recherche du temps perdu*, glorified the British poultry industry for its lack of initiative in not producing a British corned-bird. In 1983 the Ulster-based company, Moy Park, took up the challenge. Moy Park is still the only British producer, supplying the supermarkets either own-label or under their own brand names. This week they are adding

to their range of specialty chicken a new, black-feathered bird — "poulet noir," which will be stocked at first by Waitrose, Tesco, and Asda branches. Bred originally in Aquitaine, it's a smallish bird, 2½-3lb, with a mild gamey flavour that's somewhat reminiscent of guinea fowl, and it is considered in its native France the perfect dish for special occasions.

But corned chicken or poulet noir, they are both reared in the same windowless sheds as the common broiler. Moy Park, however, have also taken up the gauntlet thrown down by the poultry welfare lobby, and are now marketing a free range chicken — the first major producer to do so. "It's certainly not just a gimmick," they say. "It's in direct response to a consumer demand for chicken that has

some flavour. There's always going to be a market for the standard frozen broiler. What we're saying is that there is now more room for the specialty birds."

The black feathers of the poulet noir signal another step in the evolution of birds on their appearance, have always favoured white feathers because they leave no unsightly stubs on the skin after a bird has been plucked.

Butchers, who grade birds on their appearance, have always favoured white feathers because they leave no unsightly stubs on the skin after a bird has been plucked. Butchers, who grade birds on their appearance, have always favoured white feathers because they leave no unsightly stubs on the skin after a bird has been plucked.

over the last two Christmas seasons there's been a welcome return to the old bronze turkey and the less common, more distinctive Black Norfolk turkey. My own attempts to rear these suggest that some people actually like the dark feather stubs, just as they go for brown bread or brown rice.

Research establishments are now finding ways of mass-producing exotic birds. Geese, for example, have always been an expensive seasonal market. The first eggs are laid at Candelmas in mid-February; the first geese come on to the market at Michaelmas, five or six months later. As Christmas fare, geese has nothing like the lean-to-bone ratio of turkey but it can be four times the price.

Although goose farms of up to 2,000 birds are now becoming less unusual, 40 per cent of geese are still produced by backyard producers, earning some Christmas pin-feather money. But John Adlard, chairman of the British Goose Producers' Association, says "the demand for geese has been growing steadily for the last five years."

There have been attempts to manipulate even geese to lay eggs out of their natural breeding cycle. Loughry College, the Ministry of Agriculture's research station in Northern Ireland, has been running a programme which induces geese to lay in November. The goslings, hatched at Christmas, are then killed at a mere eight or nine weeks.

Loughry's John Kennedy claims that his intensively-reared geese have a far higher food conversion rate than traditional birds. They also, he says, have a higher proportion of lean meat to fat than traditional birds. But they've found them harder to market. "It's a tradition that geese are sold at Michaelmas and Christmas," he says. "We'll need a sustained marketing campaign to break that prejudice."

Loughry are, however, persuading thousands of people to try another of their specialties, which is found in the wild only as a sport. Five years ago Basil Bayne, farm manager, was having an evening lecture at the management of an even-tempered pheasant who had captured a pair of white pheasants from the wild. He set off in pursuit, and tracked the white birds down to Fermagh. They were being used by the gamekeeper's son, as part of an A level project. When the boy had finished with them, Bayne moved the birds into residence at Loughry, and the breeding programme began.

The birds, now grown for the college by four commercial growers, are killed at twelve weeks and at present look like not much more than the high flavour market occupied by the wild birds. "But wild pheasants do have disadvantages. You don't know how old they are when they're shot. And 40 per cent of them are so badly damaged by shot pellets that they can't be marketed as whole birds. We've after the mass market. Our pheasant is young, good. It has the unmarked appearance that supermarkets and butchers go for. And we know exactly how it's going to taste. It's a pity that agricultural establishments and farmers are trying so hard to mass-produce specialty poultry. It would be a far healthier industry in the long run, which concentrated on the smaller producers and on the quality of their pheasant fowling, corned chicken and Black Norfolk turkeys."

Besides, intensively-reared birds for reasons that are only slowly coming clear — tend to have more saturated fats than poultry reared traditionally. So for all the trend towards new kinds of poultry evolution in this corner of the farming world is still likely to mean the survival of the fittest.

Where to go to eat and drink well for under a fiver

GOOD FOOD GUIDE

SKIP the coffee and it is still possible to eat and drink well in this country for under £5 without falling over the packets and tins as you go out. All the addresses below have at least something that marks them out in their area for Easter and weekend travellers. Most suggestions are gratefully received and will be added to the directory of cheap eating places we are compiling. Send them to the usual address: The Good Food Guide, FREEPOST, 14 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6BR.

The Artichoke, Shenfield Common, Brentwood, Essex. A Tudor-style dining room which is light and airy. There is a £4.95 roast meat menu and good apple pie too, served by uniformed waitresses.

The Old Neptune, Marine Terrace, Whitstable, Kent. Seafront pub, right on the shingle. Upstairs a small dining room hung with a time printed view of the sea. The menu is

short and fishy. Dressed oysters at £3.50 comprise a mixed salad, oysters, four oysters, one mornay, and one other. Rolls and butter are fresh, a glass of wine 70p.

Bay Tree, 176 Henleaze Road, Bristol. At the back of a well stocked wholefood shop is this restaurant, with a small, cheap menu ranging from vegetarian dishes — rissoles, quiche, nut loaf — to ploughman's lunches to ham sandwiches. Open daytime only.

Bull Inn, Broughton, Skipton, North Yorkshire. Stone built pub with an abundance of window boxes and hanging baskets and lots of bedding plants in the car park and home made mushroom soup. John Tovey's pears stuffed with cheese and herb pate, good haddock and chips, and also steak and kidney pie in the dining room.

The Triton, Brantingham, North Humberside. Relaxed pub with tables outside for the summer. Pleasant service and a no-nonsense menu of canelloni £1.75, steak £3.50.

The Barge, Frome Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wilt. Light, central inn with a friendly welcome, a big menu including pizzas, fresh salads,

and bigger helpings of ham and chips. Usher's ales. There are rooms if you are going to the theatre.

The Countryman, Bolam, Co Durham. Ten minutes from Darlington, in the middle of nowhere, you pass a cross named after a man called Legs — yes, Legs Cross. Steaks from £2.55 to £3.90, jumbo sausages £1.75, and even lobster at £3.85. Gets very busy at weekends.

The Three Chimneys, Three Chimneys, Nr Biddenden, Kent. A no-country-dweller's idea of a perfect country pub with a warren of small rooms filled with striped pine, excellent Siltion quiche, ham and chutney in a cheese sauce, rich nutty apricot crumble served with yellow Jersey cream.

Unlicensed bistro with a varied menu including a choice for vegetarians as well as crab pate at £1, chicken and lamb main courses at £2.50 and pavlovas at £1.20. Lively and friendly.

Decanter Wine Bar, 74 Whitting Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Small bar with a blackboard menu offering egg mayonnaise, mushrooms in garlic, ham and mushroom tag, listelle, and there is also a

salad bar — help yourself for £1. Draught beer as well as wine.

Zeus Steak and Kebab Restaurant, 29b High Street, Baldoak, Herts.

The three course lunch here is £3.75, with plenty of choice from taramasalata to whitebait to start, before moussaka or afelia or kleftiko. The candles on the tables are stuck into Mateus Rose bottles and there is a charcoal grill for steaks.

Hayes of Ambleside, Lake District Nurseries, Ambleside, Cumbria.

This garden centre has a good little restaurant on the first floor looking across to the fells beyond — pasta bolognese, shepherd's pie, ratatouille, cakes and Cumberland sausage, everything under £1.50. Tea 30p a pot.

Adam Tandoori, 215 Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs.

Wins awards for its cleanliness, and it is possible to eat well for under £5, though the set meal at £8 is good value too. Onion bhajis and poppadums are crisp, the curries distinct and they recommend their tandoori dishes.

© Consumers' Association
Drew Smith

OFFCUTS

Champagne truths

TO a large proportion of the British market — and quite a few others — anything out of a gold-foil-topped bottle that fizzes is champagne.

That annoys many wine merchants, and positively infuriates the makers of true champagne, who went to great trouble and expense to demonstrate in the courts that only sparkling wine made by the methode champenoise, and within the strict geographical limits of the Champagne district, is entitled to the name. Even that excellent sparkling wine made in the classic manner, the Spanglars, is not allowed to call itself Spanish champagne.

The courts know this; the real champagne makers know it; but to the delight of the many makers of cheaper sparkling wines, many of the drinker-buyers do not. Even less comprehensible to many of them is the difference between good and indifferent champagne, rebranded in Champagne itself — which, as that splendid English histo-



Edward Bawden's April drawing for Ambrose Heath's first book, Good Food (1932). By permission of the artist and Faber & Faber

rian of the subject, Patrick Forbes, observes, is a land, a people, and a wine.

The aristocracy of champagne — of the wine, that is — will observe of a bottle they consider poor that it is "All right for christening, enemy battleships." So a major problem is to find the sound but cheaply priced bottle. A great vintage champagne can cost as much as £27 (Krug) or £24.70 (Bollinger) which, as Bawden would say, is absurd. There are times, though, when all feel inclined to celebrate a festival or a

Those prepared to experiment may look for the small capital letters R.M. on a label. That stands for recentant manipulation, a grower who makes champagne from his own grapes. These wines have become popular in France in the last couple of decades; they are generally young, refreshing, and cheap.

It is worth searching, and once the right wine is found, buying, if possible, a case — or six bottles — against the future.

John Arlott

Genuine free range

I WAS very glad to see Colin Spencer (March 22) describing the squalor and cruelty of battery egg production. For those consumers who want to be sure they are buying genuine free range eggs and not disguised cage eggs, the Free Range Egg Association at 37 Tanya Road, London, NW3 4JA will, in return for a 9in x 4in size, send a list of shops supplied by farms that have been inspected and found to be free range.

Yours faithfully,
Anne Coghill,
FREGA,
London, NW3

Christopher Driver
Food and wine editor

GUARDIAN PERSONAL

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Borrower Maternitywear that matches your style and your budget. Free Maternitywear Catalogue. Free Maternitywear Catalogue. Free Maternitywear Catalogue.

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Handmade Shoes
Made to measure. Just draw a circle on a piece of paper and send it with a cheque.

Handmade Shoes
Made to measure. Just draw a circle on a piece of paper and send it with a cheque.

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LETITIA STREET
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For 800 million in the poorest countries of Africa and Asia this year's harvest could make the difference between life and death. Without seed now there will be no harvest soon. Without tools there will be no defence against drought or floods and no harvest will be reaped.

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Tenders invited for the supply during the year commencing 1st April 1985 of the County's requirements for the following:
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7. WOOLLEN TIE
8. WOOLLEN TIE

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RICHARD is four years old, blond, attractive and lovable. Unfortunately, Richard was born with cerebral palsy and is severely handicapped. He is a friendly, intelligent child who has no physical limitations. He is a friendly, intelligent child who has no physical limitations.

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JULIE needs adoptive parents. She is a 10 month old baby and has Down's Syndrome. Julie is a friendly, intelligent child who has no physical limitations. She is a friendly, intelligent child who has no physical limitations.

FOSTERING AND ADOPTION SERVICES
JULIE needs adoptive parents. She is a 10 month old baby and has Down's Syndrome. Julie is a friendly, intelligent child who has no physical limitations. She is a friendly, intelligent child who has no physical limitations.

A new song for the Christian revisionist

CHRISTOPHER DRIVER
reports on the results of
the great hymn handicap
and reflects on the
problems of fitting the
new theology into the old
tunes and metres

FIRST, a Platte-like disclaimer: this page is no more my fault than Monday's April Fool. It was the Features Editor who at the foot of my interview with the philosopher-theologian, Don Cupitt, threw open to Guardian readers a challenge the Dean of Emmanuel had wisely declined: to express his revisionist thought in this hymn. Furthermore, by a Freudian or Satanic slip, a metre and a tune was specified: "The Church's one foundation", normally sung to Aurelia.

Thereby hangs not just a hymn but a tale, indeed two tales. As a result of this prizeless but nevertheless heavily subscribed competition, two Cambridge correspondents, Keith Arnold and Diane S. Owen, from Don Cupitt's own college, confided the information that whenever the Dean preached a sermon in the Chapel, a former Chaplain, whose theological sympathies lay elsewhere, used to select this hymn as a chaser, presumably on the strength of the verse that begins:

Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppress
By schisms rent asunder
By heresies distressed

The Emmanuel moles add:
"It was very difficult for the choir to keep a straight face."

This story itself evokes the Great Sermon Handicap and the Wooster school of Anglicanism, where every catechist is Bingo Little in drag and no Easter offering is safe from the crackman. Just as the ideal newspaper article — some of us think — is addressed to an audience of two, so the full import of the chaplain's message would have been apparent to the Dean but to hardly anyone else.

Church of England congregations are miserably under-informed in their hymnbooks about the authors of the verses they are expected to sing, and students are even less likely to have realised that S. J. Stone, curate of Windsor in the 1880s, wrote: "The Church's one foundation" to egg on one of the most vociferous and counter-productive heresies hunts the bishops have ever mounted: known as "the Colenso controversy".

Briefly, the missionary Bishop Colenso of Natal — a mathematician by training — published books which criticised the doctrine of eternal punishment, questioned the authorship and historicity of the Old Testament, and taught that there was something to be said for permitting Zulu polygamy.

As the years passed, and this began to sound about as revolutionary as John Selwyn Gummer on Mothering Sunday, but it was too much for Colenso's superior, Bishop Gray of Cape Town, who deposed him. Colenso sued for reinstatement. Stone wrote his hymn in support of Gray, and Colenso won: collapse of stout church parties.

This is why churchgoers of Colenso's (and Cupitt's) revisionist instincts feel rather queasy when summoned to their feet for this hymn — often, ironically, on ecumenical occasions when all present are supposed to applaud Christian unity. This unanimous effect is achieved,

The Church's one Foundation
has shrunk beyond Belief,
no Ark for our Salvation,
No Rainbow hope for grief,
for outcasts there's no Stable
for martyrdom no Crown
while from the wise man's Table
cold crumbs like stones fall down.

My Soul I know that City,
exact as any star,
a Peace that casts out Pity,
a Grace that bears no scar,
a Truth that disentangles
false Dawn from fruitful Day,
Not Angels now but Angles
to save the Sheep that stray.

For Eden's not behind us,
nor Paradise ahead,
these Straits and Narrows bind us,
turn round, turn round instead,
and let the Needy question
Injustice, Pain and Sin,
if you've a Good Digestion,
all Heaven lies within.

Jane Kingshill

At least aspired to, by six repetitions of the word "one" in the second verse, and in the tune by harping on the note G.

S. J. Wesley, the composer of Aurelia, was a fine musician but it is easy to see why the hymn has attracted so many barrack-room variants — not to mention the nutritional version that begins "I eat my peas with honey". The short lines characteristic of light verse, and the tune (winding slightly round its mediant note with sudden soggy descents into bottomless harmonic holes) set earnest competitors an uphill task indeed.

Most entries, even in the

single verse that was asked for, failed the elementary test of rhyme and metre that distinguishes the memorable and the singable from the well-intentioned in public verse. At the risk of sounding like Sir Keith Joseph, how could it be otherwise in a generation where even the best-taught can process through school without ever learning poetry by heart, or acquiring the skill of reading aloud?

But as the examples printed here show, a creditably high proportion of the 150-odd entrants took their self-imposed debar as hymnwriters seriously. Even one or two of those whose tone was elegiac or satirical

paid tribute to the books and television programmes that made them doubt whether Christians could ever now in good faith recapture the group-think that made the great hymns possible. And there was a clear winner in Jane Kingshill, whose technically accomplished verses may even get sung here and there (surely not to Aurelia) because they achieve a resonance denied to most contemporary writers of hymns and Christian folksong, the late Sydney Carter excepted.

The Editor will pay the wages of virtue for Jane Kingshill's entry, and an equivalent sum to an appropriate clerical charity for the

others printed — including the contribution of a professor of biophysics from an address in Cuckoo Hill Road. A pity that left no room for the entrant from Moses Farm, Pitdown, and for five verses by the fluent Dean of Battle.

The Church's one foundation
Is naked human soul
Whose spirit's own creation
Makes chaos into Whole:
The Sea of Faith's returning
To Western man once more,
And Dogma now is turning
To Flotsam on the shore.

R. V. SPIVEY, Bristol

The Church's one foundation
Is human thought sublime,
Inspired by cogitation

On Jung and Wittgenstein.
All realist dogma sever,
Of Jesus, God and Hell.
Man's ethical endeavour
Becomes Emmanuel.

Norman Kember, Pinner

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ alone;
We need no comfort station,
No wood, no slate, no stone.
Though creeds and cultures
crumble,
Though Theologians flee,
Though rites and rubrics
tumble,
He is our Certainty.

Lisa Wright, London SW2

The Church is our selection,
Serene, from dogma free.
We've scrapped the

Resurrection
And cut the Trinity.
We'll have a wholesale
slaughter.
A liberating rout.
As with the old bathwater
We throw the baby out.
M. R. MacIntyre, London SW4

And although the rhymes
are scamped—

The Church's one foundation
Is goodness only known,
Or goodness only human,
The rest is noise.
My insight is internal.
I've said goodbye to God,
He wasn't in the Waldorf,
He isn't in the Quad.

R. H. Payne, Blackheath

Cupitt and competitors
apart, the whole hymn question—ancient as well as modern—deserves an Easter footnote. Christmas has carols but Holy Week has hymns, so the penumbra of occasional churchgoers expect to sing Isaac Watts's "When I survey the wondrous Cross" to Rockingham and Charles Wesley's "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" to the sprightly 18th century tune from Lyra Davidica.

In recent years, literary people (and the odd sociologist) who reckon to keep an eye on what the churches are doing with the national heritage have been preoccupied with the Authorised Version of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, and fair enough. But there are other marriages of poetry and popular culture in British religion which need equally careful dusting. And outside the BBC, where are the housemaids of the hymn?

The worst example of word-blindness is the Oxford Book of Quotations, which for instance prints not a single line from Wesley's "Hark the herald angels sing" nor from Watts's "Our God, our hope in ages past" (possibly the most misquoted line in English literature). But with the honourable exception of the Companion to Music (both the Scholes and the Arnold editions) other Oxford reference books are no better.

Take Harvey's Companion to Literature (1982) whose fundamental (well, 85 per cent) revision comes out later this month. Its new editor Margaret Drabble, as the hymn scholar Bernard Manning once wrote about Rose Macaulay, "has now attained that age, or that circulation, at which popular novelists become omniscient." But a discreet disclaimer states that she too cops out with hymns. The perfunctory Harvey entry for Charles Wesley, citing only "Jesus, Lover of my soul", is one of the 15 per cent of automatic transfers from the old edition and the new.

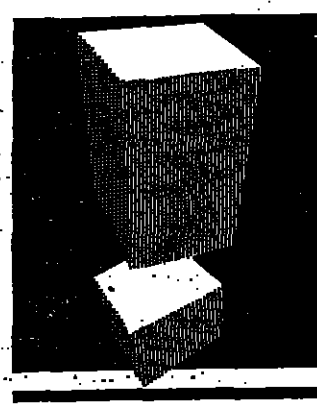
Apart from Donald Davie (in The Gathered Church, 1978) has any serious critic actually read any of Wesley's hymns lately, let alone all 14 volumes of the 10th (thundering Jacob), and wondered what kind of man could write like this for the million in the 1740s, to express what kind of imagination and experience, individual and collective? But let us return Margaret Drabble to the safer topics of Feminist Criticism and Lukács, Georg until her Companion becomes fair game on April 25.

Christopher Driver is author of A Future for the Free Churches (1982).



Bishop John Colenso by Samuel Stidley (above); Christian assailed by doubt, by H. C. Selous (right)

Much dwelling in marble halls



ENDPIECE
Roy Hattersley

I SPENT last Tuesday morning in County Hall, the last bastion of London-wide local government and the mausoleum in which is buried the metaphorical remains of Herbert Morrison's vision of a map which was painted red from Islington to Greenwich. Most of the monuments to faded municipal glory are — by any architectural standards — extraordinary buildings. But we understand why the City Fathers of Victorian England constructed Gothic cenotaphs to commemorate their life and work, even though their mortal remains are buried elsewhere. They were Gothic by nature.

But the men and women who built County Hall were not part of any movement which could be easily identified with a cross between a giant pagoda and a twelfth-century cricket pavilion with green roofs and a classical colonnade at the front. However, in one respect,

County Hall is absolutely typical of every council house and town hall that has ever been built. It has — at least on the corridor inhabited by councillors — a spectacularly splendid lavatory.

The one which I visited was virtually identical to the celebration of uric splendour which I used to use when I hunted the corridors of municipal power in Sheffield. And had I been led into it blindfolded, a possibility about which I refuse to speculate — I might have easily believed myself to be in Birmingham, standing where Joseph Chamberlain once stood. There is clearly a civic school of sanitary design. Local government plumbing is an exclusive art form. The little douches of water which spring spontaneously no life and snub the spotless porcelain, repeat an identical message. Important people have passed — I think that is the right word — this way.

Though it is not the running water but the still expanse of space that creates the air of a topographical grandeur. Back home in verbally reticent Sheffield we never called our lavatory "the smallest room in the house". But last Tuesday, as soon as I was through the discreetly sprung loaded door, the city, euphemism came into my mind. For on the corridors in County Hall the smallest room is so big that its length could be recorded on the flagstones of St Peter's without Ken Livingstone feeling ashamed of the corruption of its size with Westminster Abbey or Salisbury Cathedral. And there is almost as much marble per square inch of wall as decorates the first basilica of Christendom.

Of course the classical municipal lavatory possesses features of self-indulgent splendour which Michelangelo never thought of. Most noticeable amongst them is the splash panel — an icon of the venerable age

of the men who are expected to stand shoulder to shoulder, as well as a proclamation of the users' upper class determination to keep their gleaming shoes free from the smallest spot. Anyone who regularly gets mud on his boots is not worried about an occasional almost odorless and nearly colourless sprinkling. And for young men the splash plate is unnecessary. Town and country hall lavatories were built for the elderly and for the sartorially fastidious.

By remarkable coincidence, on the day of my visit to the opulent usual offices of County Hall I was half way through Flora Thompson's Larkrise to Candleford, a wonderful book which I ought to have read 20 years ago but which eluded me until I bought a second-hand copy at the spring fayre of the North Newcastle Constituency Labour Party.

In late 19th century rural Oxford they did things differently from the way that they were done by their elected betters in London. In Larkrise they relied on shacks over holes in the ground. Some of them had their walls decorated with penny magazine pictures of the leaders of Church and State — men used mahogany seats and ivory handles at the end of their chains. But there was no resentment. The rich man in his water closet, the poor man on his privy, God called each one to his different shillings.

There will be those of you — particularly gentle readers — who regard the lavatories of England as too basic a subject for proper inclusion within a Saturday morning family essay. But if you are right and middens, toilets and comfort stations are so primitive a part of our lives that they are best not discussed in polite company, what sort of society is it which distributes them amongst the population according to rank and distinction? And what sort of

councillors and aldermen were they a hundred years ago who wanted to spend the ratepayers' money on such obvious tributes to their own mastery. At least in my day as a councillor we built tower blocks to act as the memorials to our civilisation. The result was a disaster. But it was not so obvious self-glorification as the consciously splendid town halls — magnificent outside and in.

In The Good Companions, J. B. Priestley wrote of the Brudenford Town Hall "which has a clock that plays Tom Bowling and The Lass of Richmond Hill. It has been called a noble building in the Italian Renaissance style and always looks as if it has a right to be there." For years I could not understand the point which Mr Priestley made. The town hall at Bradford was an established institution of Northern life that I could not imagine anyone thinking of it as an alien force. Although I knew the "old Town Hall in Sheffield, its successor (circa 1870) seemed so much a permanent mark on the landscape that I could not imagine Sheffield ever existing without it. Manchester looked the same, a natural growth in the damp climate.

Then — last Tuesday — I began to think about municipal lavatories and I realised what Mr Priestley meant. In the days when they were built, the town halls of England were inhabited by grandees with little more in common with the men and women beyond the gates than the courtiers at Camelot had with the peasants of King Arthur's England. Of course the councillors claimed that the elaborate buildings were designed in praise of the city, not the city fathers. I do not believe them. No matter what the papers say, the identification with their voters is one of the many ways in which local government has improved.



We can't take away the pain this child has been through. But with your help, we'll do our best to make sure it never happens to her again. Attacks like this, take place in your area everyday. And it's only with your donations that we can give aid and comfort to the victims.

Her father bruised, burnt and broke her arm. Now we want to twist yours.

Last year, over 40,000 children relied on us for help, and there's no sign of a significant reduction in the number of children who need help.

Anything you can send will be used to provide help immediately, for example even if you send as little as £15.48 it could protect a child for a fortnight.

When you realise what your money will achieve, you'll find that having your arm twisted doesn't hurt at all.

Yes, I would like to help, and I enclose my cheque or postal order for £ Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts. No. BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

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Please send your donation to Dr. A. Gilmore, NSPCC, Ref. 58304, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS.

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DIARY

IT is worth noting the unconventional background of the new vice-chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students, Mr Mark Hoile, an enthusiastic supporter of South Africa. Young Mark was born and brought up in Rhodesia where his father was killed in 1971 in what may have been a deliberate explosion in a mine. Before coming to Britain to study at Warwick University in 1979 he served with the Rhodesian security forces. "I can't tell you why I did it," he says confidentially — "against the black forces who were shortly to win independence. There is, it is also worth noting, a more direct link between the FCS and football hooligans than simply a mutual passion for vandalism and drink. The Scottish FCS, in particular, has sought to forge links with the more protestant-inclined football clubs and sells the Glasgow-based Unionist magazine outside Glasgow Rangers, Celtic, Dundee, Aberdeen and Hibernian of Midlothian matches. Close contact has also been established with the Inter City Firm, Rangers supporters' informal organisation which has been accused of hooliganism in the past.

HENRY VII evidently did not anticipate a Lausanne. Treasury when he left an annual benefaction to be paid in perpetuity to Cambridge University. The department has decided to do away with stuffy old tradition and to give the University a once-and-for-all payment of £200 to cover Henry's and other bequests totalling £97.42. "They have not erred on the side of generosity," says the university treasurer, Mr Basil Stone. The sum evidently averages 10 per cent interest rates and no inflation. A forecast?

WHO IS J. Brown, we asked, whose Stockbridge post office box number and postal code is used by the South African propaganda radio station, Radio 7, which if it is any help, the post code refers to Houghton, near Stockbridge, where resides a Mrs F. J. Bellamy, who is married to Mr Vivian Bellamy, who runs Land's End Airport, and sister of the late Sir Robert of Fairley Aviation. Further details always welcome.

MRS T is breaking her journey back from the Far East to pop in for a brief chat with Keith Joseph. The question you will be asking is, does Lotus have any plans for opening up Saudi Arabian operations? Really. Perish the thought.

THE Village Hall committee in Moleworth (advertised by local estate agents Ekins, Dille and Handley as "this small unspoilt hamlet, lying peacefully amidst rolling arable countryside") is midway through a £8,000 appeal for renovation and extension. What better way to raise money than prepare and sell refreshments to the thousands of CND supporters marching near the cruise missile base this Easter? The idea was suggested by a committee member, Mr Chris Auster, and turned down flat by the committee. "I think many of them weren't willing to give succour to the enemy, even if it was to their advantage," said Mr Auster yesterday. He has since resigned.

HESELTINE for Trade and Industry. If so — and so it is whispered in Whitehall — then Younger for Defence? Remember, you read it here first.

MORE of the wit and wisdom of Dr. William J. Whitby, the Australian doctor whose book, Smoking Is Good For You, may or may not have been a factor in encouraging Princess Margaret to take up cigarettes once more. Dr. William, once more, Dr. William, takes a daring, unconventional line on the subject: not only is there no link between smoking and cancer — you positively improve your defences against cancer by smoking. Dr. Whitby argues that smoking increases the mucus in the lungs and the mucus in the lungs acts as a protective coating. Princess Margaret, minus the odd lung passage since her operation, would know.

MONEY may be tight for everyone but the Pentagon budget. In this year's Reagan budget. But on Wednesday night the Senate Assembly unanimously allowed one of its Maryland members of spending on \$50,000 worth of spending on the Maryland home of a famous American into a proper museum. Sounds wor- thy? Not everyone thinks so. Tudor Place, with the family of John Wilkes Booth, the failed Equity member better known for assassinating Lincoln.

Alan Rusbridger

Want a new yacht or holiday in the Rockies... why not take out a mortgage



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

YOU want a yacht, grander holidays, a new car or simply some extra cash to play the stock market? Hundreds of thousands of people every year have been deciding that they cannot face borrowing on personal loans at up to 24 per cent or overdrafts at 18 per cent to finance their luxuries. Instead they have been exploiting their only really

valuable assets, their houses, to raise money on mortgage and divert it to other types of spending.

This week the Bank of England estimated in its quarterly bulletin that the total withdrawal of funds from the housing market last year reached £7.3 billion compared with only £580 million in 1980. A huge boost to consumer spending and one of the explanations for the strength of retail and luxury goods demand over the last few years.

Between 1982 and 1984 this money, ostensibly borrowed to fund housing, has added the equivalent of 3.5 per cent to consumer spending. No wonder yacht brokers and builders are reporting the best spring sale for years.

There is nothing new about the process, except the sheer scale, which is now so large that it has become a significant factor in economic forecasts. It is also yet another puzzle for the Government in its search for

explanations of why the money supply figures, in which it sets such great store, are so erratic. It is no surprise that the Bank of England decided to investigate the diversion of mortgage money into other forms of spending.

It discovered that in 1984 £16.57 billion worth of net new loans were made for house purchase, after setting capital repayments against total mortgage lending. But net private sector spending on housing was only £3.36 billion so that cash withdrawal was £7.21 billion, a figure which the Bank's quarterly bulletin says is actually an underestimate.

The explanation of how the money seeps out of the housing market is quite complicated. Of the various categories of house owners, first time buyers and those who rent out their property have little to do with it, for obvious reasons. Most people buying their first house find it difficult enough to scrape together the mortgage

money, let alone borrow more than they need.

Another category is the house owner who simply sells up. A few (25,000 a year) emigrate with their cash. Divorced couples often sell their homes, but it is difficult to be sure how much of the cash realised goes straight back into two new homes instead of one. Country cottages may be sold to ease cash problems, especially at a time of rising house prices. By far the most important factor in selling up property is the death of the owner, who statistically speaking is likely to be older with very little mortgage outstanding (95 per cent of owner occupiers over 65 own their homes outright).

The cash realised goes to the heirs. With the great growth in owner occupation since the war 50 per cent in the last 20 years alone — the result is that many people in their 30s and 40s are beginning to inherit quite large sums from par-

ents of comparatively modest means, who a few decades ago would have left virtually nothing. As the spread of owner occupation has allowed more of the younger generation to buy their own homes before hand, the cash often goes straight into consumption.

Though important, this is a long term trend, and the Bank says it is not much use in explaining the short term fluctuations in cash withdrawal from the housing market.

Measured in constant 1980 prices, these fluctuations are enormous. Last year's £7.3 billion was £5.44 billion in 1980 prices, still a record. As long ago as 1972 cash withdrawal reached a temporary high of almost £3 billion, and was still £2.4 billion in 1978, before dropping to £1.8 billion in 1980 (all in 1980 prices).

So the key to the boom in mortgage based spending lies with two other mechanisms. One is the topping up of existing loans for home im-

provements, spending the money on other things.

Sometimes a building society is also willing to lend quite openly on mortgage to people who want to use the money for cars or consumer purchases. This has never been illegal, it is just that societies see themselves as having social responsibilities towards the housing market, so they have always given preference to borrowers who want to spend on their houses.

But by far the most important way in which mortgage money is diverted to other types of spending is when people borrow more than they need to move home. A typical example would be a buyer who in 1970 had a mortgage covering 80 per cent of the value of the house but a decade later found his loan represented only 15 per cent of the much inflated value of the house.

With the realisation of strong incentives to raise the mortgage to at least the £30,000 ceiling for relief, a lot of people are deciding

not to use all the extra money to buy a better house when they move and many trade down. Some cash then goes into spending, or paying off other types of loans.

With splendid returns from the stock market and even National Savings over the last few years, there is a strong argument for cashing in property wealth and turning it into financial assets. The Bank of England suspects that some of the mortgage money also goes into current spending by consumers who feel they should make up for the relative austerity of the 1970s when much larger proportions of their income went to paying mortgage interest.

Many others may simply be releasing cash to provide retirement income.

The Bank believes that cash withdrawal from housing is greatest when interest rates are falling and building societies are on a lending spree, as they and the banks have been for the last few years. There could be fur-

ther to go, because the drain of cash from the mortgage market in the US has reached much greater proportions.

The underlying long term incentives remain the rise in owner occupation and of course tax relief. It is illegal to claim relief on mortgage loans used for expenditure other than housing. There is a strong suspicion that many householders do however claim the relief even though strictly the money they spend on a car, a yacht or a holiday does not qualify. That is between the taxpayer, his conscience and the tax inspector.

In fact the Inland Revenue turns a blind eye to at least one of the methods of raising mortgage cash when it is done moderately, through borrowing more than is strictly needed to move house. In any case, even if you do not claim tax relief, a mortgage remains the cheapest way to borrow.

Peter Rodgers

Group expects record profit for this year

Saatchi seeks £95m for further growth

By Andrew Cornelius

Saatchi & Saatchi, one of the top five advertising agencies in the world and best known for its Conservative Party advertisements, is asking shareholders to provide £95.9 million to fund the next phase of the group's expansion.

Fifteen years of dramatic growth have turned Saatchi into a major force in the advertising and business services field. Now the aim is to consolidate the group's position in a broad range of sectors including advertising, marketing, sales promotion, design and consultancy. The Saatchi brothers — Charles and Maurice — who founded the agency, are forecasting that the group will produce record profit figures in the current year.

They estimate that pre-tax profits doubled to at least £15 million in the half-year to March 31, and that pre-tax profits for the full year to September 30 will rise by 109 per cent to £36.3 million.

The offer of 99.5 million convertible redeemable prefer-

ence shares on the basis of five new preference shares for every two ordinary shares held, will provide the funds to ensure this growth is maintained.

Part of the cash-call will be used immediately to fund two takeovers in the United States. Saatchi is buying Howard Marlowe Group, one of the leading sales promotion companies in the US for \$15.5 million (£11 million) to build a bigger share of the US sales promotion industry, where spending is rising by 14 per cent each year.

It is also buying Siegel & Gale, one of America's biggest corporate communications consultancies specialising in design and corporate identity programmes, for an initial down payment of \$2 million (£1.6 million), with additional payments linked to profits.

The takeovers complete a period of frenetic takeover activity by Saatchi. Since winning the Conservative Party account in 1979 Saatchi has completed dozens of takeovers

to create a group which is the third largest direct marketing company in the world, fifth largest in design, seventh in management consulting, and tenth in public relations.

The profits surge in the current year largely reflects this takeover activity. Forty per cent of the profits increase stem from organic growth of the existing Saatchi businesses, with the balance largely achieved by a first-time contribution from the Hay management consultancy group in the US, which was bought for \$100 million last year.

Saatchi's core advertising business has continued to produce a new flow of business gains, including Racal, Trusthouse Forte, Ross Foods, and Cadbury Typhoo. Saatchi said its annual report to shareholders, published last month, that advertising spending in the UK and US out-paced inflation by nearly three times last year, and that it expected the growth of the industry to continue in the current year.

BNOC knocks pound back

By our City Staff

THE pound fell below \$1.50 for the first time in over a week as British National Oil Corporation announced a cut in the price of crude oil from \$22.50 to \$21.50 a barrel, and a similar cut in the price of refined products. The move was seen as a sign of the dollar's strength in the oil market, and a move to ease cash problems, especially at a time of rising house prices. By far the most important factor in selling up property is the death of the owner, who statistically speaking is likely to be older with very little mortgage outstanding (95 per cent of owner occupiers over 65 own their homes outright).

Firms get offshore boost

By John Hooper

Two British firms announced that they had won orders connected with the offshore oil industry worth more than £50 million.

Amst and Pickering, a British Shipbuilders subsidiary, has won contracts totalling £28 million for two barges, while Highland Fabricators has secured a contract from BP for the £25 million construction of a new production platform in the Forties field.

The non-propelled barges, 300 feet long, can carry up to 14,000 tonnes and are for use in the construction of a new production platform in the Forties field. One is for Smit International of Rotterdam. The other is for J. P. Knight (Offshore) of Rochester. They are both due for delivery in the second half of next year.

Highland Fabricators said that work on the BP contract had already started at its Nigg Bay yard on the Firth of Cromarty.

The company said that the contract would create 300 new

jobs. The 7,800 tonne "Jacket" or base, and the 550 tonne frame on which the production platform will rest, are due for delivery in June, 1986.

The structure, 117 metres high, will stand in 95 metres of water at the south east of the field. It will not normally be manned but will have a helicopter landing pad, a communications centre and emergency accommodation.

Production from the south eastern extension of Forties is due to start towards the end of 1987. The Forties field, which was found by BP in 1970, is run under an agreement between BP, Shell, Esso and 21 other, smaller companies.

The first floating production platform, which fitted with the gas lift facilities which are going to become increasingly necessary in the North Sea has been recommissioned at Howarth's Kishorn yard on the west coast of Scotland.

BP's Buchan Alpha platform has spent the last six months

at the yard and the company has taken the opportunity to have the production platform refitted.

The work, costing some £14 million, was finished last month — seven days ahead of schedule. The platform is expected to be back in operation in the Buchan field, 70 miles north-east of Peterhead, at the start of next month.

Gas lift involves pumping gas into an oil reservoir to increase the pressure and get more oil out at higher rates of flow. Buchan, a relatively small field which came on stream four years ago, would have become uneconomic by the end of the decade if BP had had to rely on its natural pressure.

The company estimates that it will be able to increase the recoverable reserves of the field by about 10 million barrels by using the equipment which has been installed by Howarth Doria.

The Kishorn Rigdock is situated on the shores of Loch Carron, the deepest natural water channel in Europe.

Three on ESM charges

Three top men at the Florida government securities business, whose collapse led to the savings banks scare in Ohio, were arrested this week.

Mr Ronnie R. Ewton, the former chairman of the failed ESM Government Securities Inc. and two others connected with the firm were arrested on charges of forging the will of the company's deceased Chief financial officer. After ESM collapsed, widespread closures of savings and loans banks which resulted led to a sharp fall in the dollar.

Although ESM's court-appointed receiver, Mr Thomas Tew, and other parties have filed civil actions relating to the firm's collapse last month, these were the first criminal charges filed.

The State Attorney's office in Broward County charged Ewton, Jose L. Gomez, ESM's former outside auditor, and Nicholas R. Wallace, former ESM vice president, with falsifying the will of Alan Richard Novick, the chief financial officer. The will was submitted in late December. Novick, who was 44 years old, died of a heart attack on November 23.

Wallace was charged with a second count of perjury for making a false statement about the document.

If found guilty, Ewton and Gomez could be sentenced to five years in jail and fined \$5,000. Wallace could be sentenced to 10 years in jail and fined \$10,000. All three were released on bonds.

Mr David Casey, a spokesman for the Broward County State Attorney's office, said the three were expected to be arraigned in the next two weeks.

Paint groups merge to take on big names

By Mary Brasier

A privately owned Yorkshire paint group is taking over Leyland Paint and Wallpaper in a deal which will create a big new manufacturer in the paint trade to rival top names like Dulux, Crown and Berger.

Leyland, which has struggled for almost five years against the toughly competitive conditions in the decorating market, is merging with Kalon, the family company of Mr Leslie Silver, on terms which will be revealed to shareholders in a few weeks' time. Kalon, which has been in business for 38 years, is the larger group with sales of £55 million last year and profit of £2.75 million. It has carved out a market selling own brand paints to DIY chains like B & Q and Home Churn.

Leyland's managing director, Mr James McDonald, says the two businesses are a good fit. Leyland will keep its Stock Exchange listing and move up several positions in the paintmakers' league in a market which is shrinking around the big names with smooth marketing operations.

"We and Kalon feel that being independent was getting

a little lonely. The two together are stronger than each alone. We hope one plus one will make more than two."

Leyland has crawled back from the brink of disaster first through the sale of its Dulux, Crown and Berger walkover agreements in 1982, followed by a capital injection a year ago by selling shares to institutions. Mr McDonald said the merger was not a rescue move because the group's finances were in good shape, but was intended to give both groups the benefits of a common infrastructure.

The two groups should have a combined turnover of £50 million and no redundancies are envisaged for the 1,300 northern-based employees. Leyland says its programme of investment to modernise the paint factory at Leyland in Lancashire would continue and it would also go on building up a nationwide distribution network.

The group's shares were suspended from trading at 34p on Wednesday, and dealings will remain frozen until after merger terms have been put to shareholders at a special meeting. At the pre-suspension price Leyland is valued at £54 million.

Sturla in liquidation

By our Financial Staff

The trouble-torn Sturla Holdings PLC went into liquidation on Wednesday with £10,342,000 owed to unsecured and preferential creditors. In addition, 3,500 shareholders have lost their investments.

The total deficiency was put at £11,013,254. A meeting at the Connaught Rooms, Holborn, heard that the company's failure came after an investigation by the Fraud Squad and boardroom fighting.

The former managing director, Mr Robert John Knight, is now on bail awaiting trial for alleged criminal activities while at Sturla. The company's accountant, Mr Peter Phillips, of Arthur Andersen and Company, told the meeting that a string of High Court moves by the directors, Mr David Britton and Mr William Sturges, was aimed at the removal of Mr Knight from the board.

Mr Phillips said that the new board had attempted to solve the company's problems by raising additional finance. A company was formed with the intention of taking over Sturla but the £500,000 needed to get the scheme off the ground was never available.

June debut for Mirror offshoot

By Geoffrey Gibbs

The public flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers' successful Scottish newspapers could take place as early as June this year.

Mr Robert Maxwell, the Mirror's proprietor, said yesterday: "It is intended to seek a Stock Exchange listing by a public share offer later this summer." He has appointed Edinburgh merchant bankers, Noble Grossart, to handle the flotation and brokers, Wood Mackenzie, are rumoured to be the hot favourites to be brokers to the issue.

Neither the method of sale nor the price have yet been decided but it is believed that more than 50 per cent of the shares in the two newspapers — the Scottish Daily Record and the Sunday Mail — will be made available to the public.

Noble Grossart said: "We are very pleased to have been asked to assist in the flotation which will result in the creation of another successful listed company in Scotland."

Mr Maxwell, whose privately owned Pergamon Press company acquired MGN for £113 million eight months ago, announced the proposed share sale in January of this year in a letter to Mirror Group employees. The letter contrasted the successful performance of the Glasgow based operation

February housing starts slump

By David Simpson

Business Correspondent

THE level of UK housebuilding declined even further in February which proved one of the worst months on record for new housing starts.

Government figures show that new housebuilding in the UK fell to 11,900 new houses in the public and private sectors combined during the month, 27 per cent less than in the parallel 1984 month. At the same time, completions fell and in 1985, forecasts are that new housing starts are likely to decline to perhaps only 170,000 units.

The slump hit housebuilding in both the private and public sectors. In the three months to February, the number of new council houses approved was 38 per cent less than in the equivalent 1984 quarter, while the number of private sector starts also collapsed, by 11 per cent, over the same period.

The latest figures strengthen the arguments of the construction industry. Building began on only 191,400 new houses last year, and in 1985, forecasts are that new housing starts are likely to decline to perhaps only 170,000 units.

3 per cent Treasury Stock, 1989

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £400,000,000

MINIMUM TENDER PRICE £79.00 PER CENT

PAYABLE IN FULL WITH TENDER

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 15TH MAY AND 15TH NOVEMBER

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LAWSON AUSTRALIAN & PACIFIC FUND

During April 1985, applications sent direct to the managers will qualify for an extra allocation of units in lieu of administrative commission. This reduces the turn between buying and selling to 3%. Any discount is borne by the Managers and does not affect the fund.

The aim of the Lawson Australian and Pacific Fund is to provide a long-term investment in the growth of Australia and the Pacific region.

From 11p in September 1983 on the back of the fall in the price of gold. Now could be the ideal time to commit money. The portfolio includes ANZ Bank, Bell Group, Bell Resources, Bousherville, BHP, CRA, CSR, Elders, F&I, Hamilton Gold, Lend Lease, Melbaird Mining, Peabody, TNT, Western Mining, Vamags, Westralian Gold, Westpac Bank.

OFFER OF UNITS AT 7.7p UNTIL THURSDAY 18th APRIL 1985

Estimated Annual Gross Yield 2.5%. The Managers reserve the right to close this offer if the price rises by more than 2.5%. Units will be allocated thereafter at the current price. During an offer units may be bought and sold daily — otherwise on Thursdays. A wider range of units is available authorised by the Department of Trade. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. An initial charge of 6% is included in the price. A monthly fee of 0.125% + VAT is included in the price. A monthly fee of 0.125% + VAT is included in the price. A monthly fee of 0.125% + VAT is included in the price.

For Lawson Fund Managers Ltd, FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH2 0DB.

Write to purchase units in Lawson Australian and Pacific Fund at 4% discount and agree to pay on receipt of contract notes.

Signature(s) Mr/Ms/Ms

SURNAME

FIRST NAMES (in full)

ADDRESS

APM 06/4/85

June debut for Mirror offshoot

By Geoffrey Gibbs

The public flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers' successful Scottish newspapers could take place as early as June this year.

Mr Robert Maxwell, the Mirror's proprietor, said yesterday: "It is intended to seek a Stock Exchange listing by a public share offer later this summer." He has appointed Edinburgh merchant bankers, Noble Grossart, to handle the flotation and brokers, Wood Mackenzie, are rumoured to be the hot favourites to be brokers to the issue.

Neither the method of sale nor the price have yet been decided but it is believed that more than 50 per cent of the shares in the two newspapers — the Scottish Daily Record and the Sunday Mail — will be made available to the public.

Noble Grossart said: "We are very pleased to have been asked to assist in the flotation which will result in the creation of another successful listed company in Scotland."

Mr Maxwell, whose privately owned Pergamon Press company acquired MGN for £113 million eight months ago, announced the proposed share sale in January of this year in a letter to Mirror Group employees. The letter contrasted the successful performance of the Glasgow based operation

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WEEK-END MONEY

Go to work on a nest egg

Margaret Dibben lets in the new tax year with good news for savers prepared to shop around

NOW is the time for New Year resolutions. On the confident assumption that you have either broken, or forgotten, the promises you made to yourself on January 1, today, April 6, the first day of the new tax year, offers a second chance to take yourself in hand.

For anyone at a loss for ideas for virtuous behaviour, I suggest you promise yourself to take a keener interest in what is happening to your savings.

But interest rates do not stand still. What gives you the best rate today, may not be so great tomorrow. It takes application, so keep in touch with all the changes, but the fact that a new savings plan is launched with fanfare and

good terms, does not mean that it will not be overtaken by others, or will even maintain its competitive edge.

The competition among savings institutions is acute at the moment, to the extent that National Savings have increased some of their rates from the start of their financial year.

Building societies are so desperate for money to meet the spring demand for mortgages that rates have been leaping, and the notice periods shrinking, all week.

For example, the Midshires Gilt Edged Bond is paying 10.5 per cent net for a minimum deposit of £500 and you can get the money at 90 days' notice with no loss of interest.

The bond guarantees to pay 2.25 per cent above the ordinary share rate for two years. Most societies have given their accounts special names, in which the word "gold" figures frequently. But, do not confuse or "gold" account with another — the designations are purely arbitrary and the interest rates and withdrawal conditions vary.

The Leeds has improved the terms of its Liquid Gold

account to 9.75 per cent for sums of £500 and has brought out a new Limited Edition paying 10.75 per cent net, worth 15.36 per cent gross, for minimum investments of £10,000. Money is available at 90 days' notice and again the differential is guaranteed.

Now that there is no longer a limit on the total amount you can invest in any one building society, there is no compulsion about advertising for very large minimum deposits. The Halifax has a new account paying 10.5 per cent net, 14.94 per cent gross equivalent, or 15.21 per cent if the interest is reinvested on amounts over £10,000.

At the Alliance, however, 10.25 per cent is available at 90 days' notice for a deposit of only £1,000 and only £500 at the Anglia. At the Cheltenham & Gloucester the Gold account now pays the same interest rate on £500 or more with no notice period and no penalty.

The Nationwide has a top rate of 10 per cent on a Bonus 90 and a three-year bond while the Woolwich pays 10 per cent on its 90-day account. The National & Provincial pays 10.5 per cent on a three-year Apex account. But here, if you withdraw any money early, there is a penalty of 60 days' lost interest.

At the Guardian Building Society the top rate is 10.6 per cent net for a minimum £1,000 holding at six months' notice worth 15.64 per cent gross equivalent if the interest is added half yearly. Chelsea Lion Shares pay 10.55 per cent net and the minimum investment is £500.

The banks are putting their heaviest ammunition into the high interest money market and cheque accounts. These rates are rapidly changing but are correct at April 3.

They are the basic gross rates and instant access accounts. The larger the deposit, the higher the interest rate, generally for £10,000 National Westminster Bank pays 13.93 per cent, Schroder 13.75 per cent, £25,000 13.93 per cent, £50,000 14.25 per cent, £100,000 14.57 per cent, £250,000 14.89 per cent, £500,000 15.21 per cent.

Like the building societies, the banks have been reducing the minimum investment needed so, with just £1,000, Schroder pays 13 per cent, Save & Prosper 13.3 per cent, Oppenheimer 13 per cent. The Co-op Bank pays 11 per cent for deposits of £500 or more and has just brought out a new account, Top Tier Account, paying 12.5 per cent on balances of £2,500 at three months' notice.

At the £2,000 starting point, National Westminster pays 13.75 per cent, and Midland bank 13.04 per cent. Then, with £2,500 you can get 13 per cent from Barclays, the Co-op and the Bank of Scotland; 13.57 per cent from Tyndall; 12.75 per cent from Royal Bank of Scotland.

The basic deposit rate at a bank now is 7.35 per cent, but a one month deposit will pay 9.1 per cent. All the bank rates are after allowing for basic rate tax.

To work out the net rate, multiply the gross rate by 100 minus 25.25 and divide by 100. So, if the interest rate is 10 per cent gross, the net will be 7.47 per cent.

To find the gross equivalent, multiply the net rate by 100 and divide by 70. If the rate is 10 per cent net, the gross equivalent is 10.67 per cent.

The gross rate is the net rate multiplied by 100 and divided by 100 minus 25.25. The 25.25 represents composite rate tax which is paid by banks and building societies on your behalf.

National Savings, where you can still have your interest paid gross, are increasing their rates over the next few weeks. From April 11, the Investment Account will pay 12.75 per cent gross, which is 8.93 per cent to a basic rate tax payer. The income bond and deposit bond go up on May 13 to 13.25 per cent gross or 9.9 per cent net.

And if you have any old savings certificates which have matured, these now earn 9.51 per cent tax free.

The 30th issue fixed interest savings certificate that pays 8.85 per cent over the full five years completely tax free is untouched, as are the index linked certificate and SAYE contract.



When it's better not to travel hopefully

David Worsfold reads the small print on his Green Card

IN SOME people's eyes the European Economic Community is the root of all evil: in others it seems a paragon of virtue. Whichever side of this almost never ending argument is nearer the truth we might never know. It is, however, certainly true that membership of the EEC has hauled a lot of people into a false sense of security when it comes to taking their car with them on a continental holiday.

Up to half of all UK motorists travelling to the continent do not bother to extend

their motor insurance before they go, with the calamitous result that they are travelling around with the bare minimum of insurance cover — often limited to only third party insurance.

The reason why so many motorists do not bother to take out adequate insurance is that every UK motor policy states that it will also meet the minimum legal requirements for motor insurance in every EEC country, plus Austria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland, without the policyholder having to obtain any extra documentation. The trouble is that the minimum legal cover in many countries is very bare indeed. You could quite likely end up not being covered at all for damage to your car or for theft.

The linchpin of motor insurance for continental travel is the Green Card. This is a type of motor insurance certificate and is obtainable from the company which currently insures your car. It will cost about £10 to £25 and will give you the same amount of insurance cover abroad as you would have in the UK. It is compulsory in most other European countries. If you turn up at their borders without it you will be required to take out some very expensive temporary insurance with a local insurance company.

Although the Green Card is not necessary for travel to EEC countries (except Greece) motoring organisations and insurance companies strongly advise that you obtain one.

As well as providing cover

while you are travelling around the continent, a Green Card will also cover your vehicle while in transit (usually subject to a time limit of 60-65 hours) and it might provide cover for any import duty that could become payable if the car is stolen or written off in an accident.

For anyone taking a car to Spain, Bail Bonds are a near-essential. These will cost a nominal amount and can be bought from your insurance company. In Spain, the legal system gives the police the right to detain people in jail after an accident unless the requisite amount of bail is put up. A Bail Bond guarantees that you will pay any fines for which you might become liable; it is not an agreement by the insurance company to pay your fines. If

the insurance company does have to part with any money on your behalf, you will have to pay them back.

Nowadays, many travel insurance policies offer optional cover for motor breakdowns for about £20-£25 for a fortnight in Europe. This will provide emergency repair, towing or repatriation services, plus the cost of hiring a replacement vehicle if yours is stolen or damaged, and some means of getting home if the driver is taken ill. Extra cover can also be purchased for caravans and trailers. This will cost about £10 for up to three months. If your car is over 10 years old you could have difficulty in obtaining breakdown cover although one or two insurers will consider cars up to 15 years old on payment of an additional premium.

John Gibbs Associates Ltd.

The Investment Consultants

Planning, Recommendation or Recommendation with

Capital to Invest?

- * Tax free income
- * Above average capital growth
- * Security of capital

8.5%*

27.04%*

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Readers who have asked for a copy of our unit trust fact sheet should receive it later this week. Anyone who missed last Saturday's Weekend Money feature about unit trusts but would still like a copy of the free background information sheet should send a large stamped addressed envelope to: Weekend Money, Unit Trust Fact Sheet, The Guardian, 719 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

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Criterion Managed Bond

At the sign of the three gold balls

Alice Lloyd on the safest place to pop your baubles, bangles and beads

THINK of a pawnbroker's shop and you will probably imagine a faded sepia tint photograph of a jeweller's shop with three brass balls hanging outside.

Pawnshops had their heyday at the beginning of the century, but the few that remain are doing rather well. There are around 100 left throughout the country while London alone had 700 at the end of the Second World War. Most are small one-man businesses, often trading mainly as jewellers. But there is a chain of pawnbrokers, Harvey and Thompson, which has 14 shops and is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market.

They have moved away from all connections with the jewellery trade and see themselves purely as money-lenders. While some of their shops are decidedly scruffy, the newer ones are being opened in smart quarters and being given the modern glass and potted plant treatment. "Just like a building society," says Lewis Watson, managing director of Harvey and Thompson.

"People come to us like they use a credit card. It's a way of life. Lots of people have found out that it's quite a neat transaction and only takes five minutes," says Lewis Watson, managing director of Harvey and Thompson.

All sorts now use pawn shops — pensioners who need a few pounds to tide them over until their next trip to the Post Office, businessmen who need a lot of money for a very short period, students running short of cash before a grant cheque is due.

At the moment, pawn shops operate under two different systems — loans under £50 under a pawnbroker's licence and loans above £50 under a moneylender's licence. But after May this will be tidied up and pawnbrokers will be brought under the Consumer Credit Act. They will have to quote their rates in APR terms and will have to write to customers when the six-month contract expires and the shop has the right to put the goods into a public auction.

These are things we were doing anyway," says Mr. Watson. Between 90 and 95 per cent. of pledges are redeemed. "We are more than pleased for people to have their items back. Our business is similar to a bank interest is our profit," he added.

The shops only take jewellery, gold and silver. They stopped taking cameras and hi-fi equipment recently because they are too difficult to sell, and present a storage problem. Customers are offered 40-60 per cent. of the value of the goods — judged by the weight of the precious metal rather than the craftsmanship.

Most loans are in the £50 to £200 range and last for two or three months. The minimum loan is £5. For loans over £50 interest is 48 per cent. APR, or 13p a day per £100, with

interest calculated daily. Loans under £50 are 48.24 per cent. APR, or 4p per £1 per month, calculated monthly. And on top of this there is a ticket charge of five per cent. deducted from the advance at the outset.

Thus, someone borrowing £5 would take away £3.70 and repay £5.24 on loans for up to a month — a total charge of 54p. But someone borrowing £50 would take away £37 and repay £60.08 after one day (total cost £3.08) or £62.34 after 30 days (total cost £5.34).

While valuables are lodged with "uncle" they still belong to the original owners, who are responsible for insuring them. Any items insured under an all-risks policy would be covered. Harvey and Thompson offer cover up to three times the value of the loan for £1.50 per £100 or part of £100 for the duration of the six months ticket.

All sorts of problems arise should you lose the ticket — the no-questions-asked passport to the recovery of your goods as long as it is accompanied by repayment of the loan and interest. Anyone finding the ticket could guess that it would be worthwhile redeeming the goods since loans are not made for more than about 60 per cent. of the value of the goods.

If you lose the ticket you need to go along to a magistrate or commissioner of oaths, who will charge about £3 to swear an affidavit. Then either the goods must be redeemed within three days or a new six-month pledge must be taken out.

At the end of six months the pawnbrokers write to customers who have not re-

deemed their goods to warn them that they will be sent to a public auction. In practice at Harvey Thompson it is around eight months before the goods are actually sent to auction. "We find that a lot of people give a false name and address so they never hear from us," a company spokesman said.

Even if someone surfaces after their goods have been auctioned, they are entitled to any surplus over the loan and interest realised at the auction.

More and more people are finding that it makes sense to visit the pawnbroker before they go on holiday. They get some extra cash to spend while they are away and their valuables are kept securely under lock and key out of the clutches of run-of-the-mill house burglars.

Pawnbrokers' charges compare quite favourably with banks' charges for safe keeping or a commercial safe deposit box.

A safe deposit box will cost at least £20, and bank charges for safe keeping are £5.80 at Midland and between £10 and £15 at Lloyds, for the minimum period of a year.

Your rings, bracelets and trinkets may be worth £500 or £1,000, but there is nothing to say that you must borrow up to the limit on them. So you could deposit them for your fortnight's holiday and take out a loan for, say, £100 which would cost £5 (five per cent. for the ticket charge, plus £1.52 clocked up at 13p a day, which means that for £8.32, or 8.32 per cent. with insurance, your valuables are in safe hands while you sun yourself on the beach.



Just a little help and a touch of friendly persuasion

Mary Brasier on how the friendly societies are making a comeback

FRIENDLY societies, never in the mainstream of personal savings, looked like being washed away completely last year when the Budget dealt them a crippling blow. Now, however, they are making a comeback. A friendly society has become a more viable proposition for many people and the societies are gearing themselves up for a revival of business.

The Budget hit at the societies' fundamental attraction — their tax exempt status. Societies had flourished and multiplied on the back of regulations which allowed them to offer up to £2,000 of tax free life insurance to anyone who was married or a parent. The Budget brought both the tax exempt societies and those doing a mix of tax exempt and taxable business into line: they were all to write a maximum of £750 per person, with an annual premium of £100. Mixed societies were pleased because the ruling allowed them to raise the amount of tax exempt business they could write from £500 per person to the new £750 limit. The tax exempt societies, however, were devastated.

Many societies, particularly the newer ones, simply ceased taking business. Others went into hibernation. But in the past few months the friendly society has started to come back to life.

Partly this is because, while taking away on the one hand, the Government gave on the other, it widened the eligibility of those who can put money into a friendly society and take advantage of the tax exemption to include anyone between 18 and 70, resident in the UK.

Even if you are single you can now buy a friendly society plan.

Those societies which survived the upheaval of 1984 — and there are far fewer of them — are now coming back into the market with new tax exempt plans designed to appeal to this wider market. Some are also working on expanding their scope with taxable policies too.

Lancashire & Yorkshire, one of the more resilient societies, believes its plans can now be attractive both to people with restricted income who would otherwise not buy any life insurance at all, and to top rate taxpayers who might use a friendly society plan to top up their existing life insurance and savings with the benefit of no tax liability. All the plans on offer are for a fixed term of 10 years, with no access to your money, and for some people the limits on the sum assured are still a drawback. Most of the policies are broadly the same. The premium is £100 per year, which can also be paid monthly and sometimes as a lump sum.

The money is invested in a building society, unit trusts, gilts or equities — often a combination of all four. Rates

of return vary, but a typical policy is the Homeowners Prosperity Plan which offers 11.03 per cent free of tax by investing the premiums with building societies such as the Leeds and the Bradford and Bingley.

Apart from the tax exemption, Homeowners claim they can offer investors better fund performance because, with £70 million on deposit with building societies, they can command better than average rates for their savers. (They also pay no commission.) Some societies can take advantage of similar "discounts for bulk" on plans which are unit linked.

Equitable has just brought out a policy which is the first to offer a plan linked to investment trusts. This, they believe, will give a better performance than unit trusts, and gives investors the benefit of the society's own investment expertise in deciding which trusts to switch money into at any given time.

The TWEPs Prize Plan is also an example of how societies are starting to combat the limitations of a low value insurance policy by offering a combination of tax free and taxed plans. The tax free portion is within the ceiling of £750 set down last year, and is free of all capital gains and income tax in addition, there is a supplementary taxable element (although as the premiums are to be invested in growth funds, the liability is principally to tax on income rather than on capital).

TWEPs, with the higher rate taxpayer very much in mind, suggest that this sort of policy could be used by a grandparent wanting to make a gift to a child or set aside money to buy a home.

The Fleet offers a similar back to back deal, with £1,500 of life insurance for an annual premium of £200, where half is tax exempt.

Nonetheless, the friendly societies are far from being able to take on the traditional life insurance companies. The keys to investing in them are:

- picking plans which are linked to fundamentally good investments, regardless of the tax concessions;
- checking that the charges for administering the policy are low. Societies levy charges in various forms. Almost all have an annual fund charge which can be as much as one per cent, but averages around 0.5 per cent. Some have a minimal membership fee as well, and there can also be a policy fee on top.

Charges are payable up front out of the first year's premium, so if you decide to terminate the plan early you will still have paid for the cost of administering the policy for the full ten-year term.

Small societies can boast low overheads, but it is important to check that they can offer security for investors' funds and preferably some kind of track record.

For those who are interested in what is a developing form of savings, friendly societies market their plans through building societies, insurance brokers and by direct sales.

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SATURDAY
BBC-1

- 8.30 Roobarb. 8.45 Battle of the Planets. 9.00 Saturday Superstore. 10.00 The Gospel According to St John. 12.12 pm Weather news.
- 12.15 GRANDSTAND. Desmond Lynam introduces the Boat Race edition, with Harry Carpenter and Chris Ballew commenting on the traditional water journey (12.16; 1.10; 1.40; 2.10). Plus: Football Focus (12.20); news (12.30); racing from Haydock Park (12.55; 1.25; 1.55); swimming - National Short Course Championship (1.15; 1.30; 1.45); rugby league - Hull v Castleford (2.30; 3.55); Formula One preview (4.30); final score (4.40).
- 5.5 NEWS: Weather News; sport; regional news.
- 5.20 THE NEW ADVENTURES OF WONDER WOMAN: Anschluss 77. New, indeed: does any vengeful Dr. Who fan fancy counting a prosecution under the Trades Description Act? Lynda Carter as the awful Amazon, in re-hashed old fantasy series. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 6.5 TERRY AND JUNE. More re-run comedy with Scott and Whitfield. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 6.35 THE NOEL EDMONDS GOLDEN EASTER EGGS AWARDS. That's egg as in on the face: goofs and gaffes from the cutting-room floor, plus sly bits from viewers' hopeless home movies. Hope Denis Norden gets the yolk.
- 7.5 THE PAUL DANIELS MAGIC EASTER SHOW. Comedy and conjuring on a Big Top theme from the master illusionist and his guests.
- 8.0 DYNASTY: Fallon. More angst for the Denver big-spenders, with Alexis distressed by a setback. Steven distraught about Danny, and poor Jeff checking all the late-night chemists in Portland to see if his runaway bride has been in for an aspirin. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 8.45 NEWS: sport; weather.
- 9.0 BLAZING SADDLES. First TV showing for Mel Brooks' wild, Western spoof sending up every frontier cliché, made in 1974, with Gene Wilder as the boozing gunslinger. Madeline Kahn as the saloon chanteuse. Brooks himself doubling up as bent governor and Yiddish speaking Indian chief. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 10.30 MATCH OF THE DAY. Jimmy Hill with the day's League soccer highlights.
- 11.20 THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST JOHN. With Paul Alexander.
- 11.30 DR Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Rouben Mamoulian's classic, best-ever rendering of the R. L. Stevenson story, with Oscar-winning Freddie March as the young doctor and his monstrous creation. Made in 1931. 1.5 Weather; close.

Scotland: 10.30 pm Sportsweek. 11.20-11.30 The Last Seven Words.

- Anglia**
5.15 As London.
5.5 Film: Alias Smith and Jones. 1971. Western with Pete Duel, Ben Murphy.
6.30 As London.
12.45 Undercurrents; close.
- Central**
5.15 As London.
5.5 Film: Alias Smith and Jones. 1971. Western with Pete Duel, Ben Murphy.
6.30 As London.
6.15 As London.
- Granada**
9.25 Cartoon.
9.35 Tarzan.
10.20 Puffin's Platfice.
10.30 As London.
5.5 Film: Alias Smith and Jones. 1971. Western.
6.30 As London.
6.15 As London.

SUNDAY
BBC-1

- 8.55 am Play School. 9.10 Taking Stock. 9.35 Business Club. 10.00 Asian Magazine. 10.30 Your Head. 10.55 Festival Service. 11.50 The Gospel According to St John. 12.15 pm Devon's Underworld. 12.35 Farming. 1.0 News Headlines. 1.15 The Empty Bowl. John Humphries reports from famine stricken areas of Ethiopia, Sudan and Chad. 1.45 Cartoon Double Bill. 2.0 Eastenders. Omnibus edition with Cee-fax sub-titles. 3.0 Tarka the Otter. 1978 film of Henry Williamson's novel. Cee-fax sub-titles. 3.30 Top Gear. London and S-East only - see below for regional variations.
- 5.0 ROCKSPELL. Pop gospelier Cliff Richard in spiritual mood, delivering music with a message with the assistance of guest Larry Norman.
- 5.50 ANTIQUES ROADSHOW. Hugh Scully and the team set up shop in Kendal. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 6.30 NEWS: Weather News.
- 6.40 SONGS OF PRAISE. For Easter Sunday, from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé in Burgundy. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 7.15 LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE: One Of The Last Few Places Unexplored By Man. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 7.45 BIRD BRAIN OF BRITAIN. Which is our brightest native bird? This film from the Natural History Unit shows how feathered contenders cope with a variety of avian intelligence tests. Cee-fax sub-titles.
- 8.15 MASTERMIND. Magnus Magnusson quizzes tonight's human magpies, on institutions of the European Community, Milton's life and poetry, the British newspaper comic strip and the lives and voyages of John and Sebastian Cabot.
- 8.45 NEWS: Weather News.
- 9.0 TIME AND THE CONWAYS. Claire Bloom leads this new production of the classic J. B. Priestley drama as the head of the family first encountered at the end of the Great War, with blessings to be counted and a future to build - then revisited, 20 years on, after events unimaginable. Starry support comes from Geraldine James, Phyllis Logan, Susan Woodbridge, Mel Martin.
- 10.40 REMEMBER LAMBETH WALK? Song-writer Noel Gay's most famous composition introduces this musical tribute to the man and his many hits, performed by a company which includes Paula Wilcox and Kenneth Connor.
- 11.30 THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST JOHN. Paul Alexander concludes the Holy Week story.
- 11.45 WATERLOO BRIDGE. Vivien Leigh and Robert Taylor play the ballerina and Army officer whose whirlwind romance is a casualty of the Great War. In Mervyn LeRoy's b-and-b-w. Cee-fax sub-titles. 1930. 1.30 Weather; close.

Wales: 12.35-12.55 pm Farming in Wales. 2.0-2.30 Western Rugby Union. Cardiff v. The Barbarians. 3.30-3.55 A Nation of Saints. 4.0-4.15 Songs of Praise from the Trehafod Chapel, Morriston. 10.45 Voices from the Holy Land. 11.30 Remembrance of the Lambeth Walk. 12.20 am The Gospel According to St John. 12.30 am News. 1.0-1.15 am News. 1.15-1.30 am News. 1.30-1.45 am News. 1.45-2.00 am News. 2.00-2.15 am News. 2.15-2.30 am News. 2.30-2.45 am News. 2.45-3.00 am News. 3.00-3.15 am News. 3.15-3.30 am News. 3.30-3.45 am News. 3.45-4.00 am News. 4.00-4.15 am News. 4.15-4.30 am News. 4.30-4.45 am News. 4.45-5.00 am News. 5.00-5.15 am News. 5.15-5.30 am News. 5.30-5.45 am News. 5.45-6.00 am News. 6.00-6.15 am News. 6.15-6.30 am News. 6.30-6.45 am News. 6.45-7.00 am News. 7.00-7.15 am News. 7.15-7.30 am News. 7.30-7.45 am News. 7.45-8.00 am News. 8.00-8.15 am News. 8.15-8.30 am News. 8.30-8.45 am News. 8.45-9.00 am News. 9.00-9.15 am News. 9.15-9.30 am News. 9.30-9.45 am News. 9.45-10.00 am News. 10.00-10.15 am News. 10.15-10.30 am News. 10.30-10.45 am News. 10.45-11.00 am 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9.30-9.45 am News. 9.45-10.00 am News. 10.00-10.15 am News. 10.15-10.30 am News. 10.

Ruling councillors carry on their budget feud in private while the opposition gets down to business

Tories outwit Labour group to set a legal rate

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

Members of the ruling Labour group in the rate-capped London borough of Lewisham were yesterday learning to live with the embarrassment of missing the council meeting at which opposition Conservatives passed a legal rate.

The accident happened on Thursday night, amid riotous scenes at Lewisham town hall.

When the 38 Labour councillors arrived to start the council meeting, it emerged that the fragile compromise they had agreed to cope with the rate-capping crisis was not holding together. Without even starting the meeting, they repaired to a committee room down the corridor to sort out a new deal.

This left the 26 Tories twid-

dling their thumbs. They had already been outraged by the scenes the night before when an attempt to hold the council meeting had been abandoned because the town hall had been taken over by demonstrators urging the Labour councillors not to abandon their stance of refusing to fix a rate within the terms of the Government's rate-capping and grant-fixing system.

Elaborate precautions had been taken to prevent similar pandemonium on Thursday evening. But, in spite of them, the foyers and stairways outside the chamber were ringing to the sounds of slogans.

The Tories decided on a pincer attack. Without letting Labour members know, they appointed a chairman and put through a motion passing the legal maximum rate.

"We were fed up after waiting 40 minutes for what we had been led to believe would be a normal and orderly council meeting," said the leader of the Conservative opposition, Mrs Peggy King. "There were 150 demonstrators inside and outside the chamber and the mayor was refusing to come out of his room until they were removed."

"On the spur of the moment, we decided to go ahead without the Labour councillors and passed our own budget. We set a rate of 23p in the pound. The chief executive and the borough solicitor advised us that our action was more legal than illegal, but we are not quite sure what will happen next."

Council officials are unsure what has already happened. The noise from the public gal-

lery was so deafening that the official minute-taker is uncertain of the details of the spending budget which the Tories think they agreed along with the rate.

The Labour group was meanwhile completing its discussions in ignorance of what was happening in the chamber. Since the Tory rate resolution was unanimous, there were no division bells. Even if there had been it is unlikely that they could have been distinguished from the security alarm system which was intermittently sounding.

After much agonising a new compromise was being hammered out. Like the previous one, it involved Labour members sacrificing cherished principles that there should be no rent increases and no cuts in

jobs and services. The new deal was sufficiently vague about the cuts that enough left-wingers could be carried with it.

They opened themselves up to accusations of betrayal by constituency comrades in order to prevent the group breaking apart under the threat of a charge of disqualification which face councillors failing to set a legal rate.

Finally, news arrived of what was happening in the chamber, but the Labour members, hindered by the security arrangements which had failed to keep out the demonstrators, got back too late.

Mr Ron Stockbridge, the Labour leader, has called a meeting of the ruling policy committee early next week to discuss how to pick up the

pieces. Although the Government's rate-cap income limit suggests that spending must be cut from Labour's £83 million plan to only £78 million it is possible that less swinging arrangements can be made by use of creative accounting techniques.

Several Labour councillors thought it was unlikely that the legality of the Tory rate could be challenged since the Conservatives had a quorum. They acknowledged the procedural mistake was to fail to start the council meeting and adjourn it to allow the group its further deliberations.

One group which is likely to suffer from Labour's confusion is council tenants. Although Labour had agreed rent increases of at least £1 a week,

it appears that the Tories have put through a larger increase. It is not certain whether the minute-taker got what it was.

Some Labour councillors thought the result might be no bad thing, since the Tories could now be blamed for cuts which Labour had been plying to make itself. Others pointed out that if Labour is to stay in office, it still has all the hard decisions to make about where the cuts should fall.

Mr Ken Terry, chairman of Lewisham, said there would be no action against any council decision to raise rents or cut jobs and services.

Labour-controlled Haringey, north London, continued to defy the Government when it voted again on Thursday night to defer making a rate.

Reagan's Managua peace initiative doomed

Continued from page one

move was that its prime purpose was to break the long deadlock over so-called covert aid to the three anti-Sandinista rebel groups by attempting to force the issue again in Capitol Hill.

As with the controversial linking of the controversial missile vote with the Geneva arms talks, the President is making a tactical blunder, at which he will be the judge and during Congress to throw a spanner into the works.

What Mr Reagan has done is to reject those advisers who urged him to support the Contra aid issue until late spring. After consulting congressional leaders who told him that as things stood his \$14 million request was "dead in the water" he has again upped the stakes with a dramatic revival of an offer first made by the rebels from San Jose, Costa Rica on March 1, and promptly rejected by Nicaragua.

Mr Reagan said the talks would be held "with the goal of restoring democracy through free elections". There is little in it for the Sandinistas, who have held their own elections — and won them — and arguably even less for the Contras.

It is a crucial part of Mr Reagan's policy, that the Congress should release the \$14 million aid, which was blocked last year, but that it should only be used for what he calls "food, clothing, medicine and other support for survival" — not arms — pending a negotiating deadline of June 1. The congressional votes will take place between April 23 and 30.

If Mr Reagan judges after 60 days of supposed talks that they are going nowhere, then he will lift the restriction on the Contra coming before guns, although congressional critics were pointing out yesterday that this attempt to save the tender consciences over Contra aid inevitably leaves the rebels with other money to spend on hardware.

Cruise marches begin

By Gareth Parry

Peace campaigners set out in three separate marches yesterday, bound for the cruise missile base at Moleworth, Cambridgeshire, at the start of a four-day Easter protest by CND. The general secretary, Mr Bruce Kent, said he would "certainly support" attempts by protesters to break into the base.

The chairman of CND, Mrs Joan Ruddock, led 300 people from Leicester, another 250 were given an official send off by the Mayor of Cambridge, while a further 600 set off from Stevenage, Hertfordshire. They were quickly joined along the route by hundreds of other anti-nuclear protesters.

The last of the marches are expected to reach Moleworth on Sunday around 4pm when they will attend religious services and an all-night candlelit vigil around the base's seven-mile perimeter.

At least 20,000 demonstrators are expected to attend the Moleworth protest.

Mr Kent was asked yesterday whether he would approve of attempts to breach the fence. "I would certainly support it in the sense that what is going on in the base is illegal," he said.

He stressed, however, that such an action was "not part of our plan." But he added: "It is a very critical national issue that we are taking in cruise missiles that belong to another country. It is a very dangerous thing for this country. I hope that people will go beyond the demonstration and think about the issues, which are very important ones."

Worried farmers have taken aerial photographs of their land around the missile base, and are warning they will sue if crops of wheat and barley are damaged during the demonstration.

The Government has told the National Farmers Union that it will not guarantee to pay compensation. The NFU plans to take another set of pictures after the protest. If a comparison shows damage to crops, the NFU says it will take civil action against CND, the police and the Ministry of Defence.



ON THE RUN: Contestants in the annual *Devizes to Westminster* canoe race (above) carry their craft along a barge at a blocked point in the Kennet and Avon Canal. The race finishes today and tomorrow. (Picture by Frank Martin). In Aberdeen (below), a bullock is caught after escaping from a market and panicking shoppers, damaging cars, and smashing a shop window.

M1 blocked by 32-mile traffic jam

Continued from page one

by taking to the hard shoulder in an attempt to get off the motorway. With 16 miles between junctions 14 and 15, there was no escape and many cars overheated.

At ports and airports the work to rule by customs men did not cause any long delays, although the situation is expected to get worse.

Mr Leslie Christie, the general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, which represented 5,000 of the 6,000 customs men, said there would be significant delays and disruption later in the weekend.

Men at London's airports and the Channel ports had voted by a 2 to 1 majority for the work to rule in support of a 15 per cent pay claim. They had been offered 4.4 per cent.

The cargo service from



Poole, Dorset, run by Truck-line was hit when Customs officers failed to clear 15 lorries containing Common Market and Spanish goods. One load of cheese and butter was allowed through because it was perishable.

At Fishguard, 250 holiday-makers were stranded when Sealink overbooked the 2.30 am Irish ferry. Sealink said the passengers would have to wait 12 hours because a ticket did not guarantee a passage.

PM fails to soothe Malaysia

Continued from page one

desire to get better access to European consumer markets.

Dr Mahathir made clear that Britain could expect no special favours in seeking to win contracts in Malaysia, but also pointed out that Malaysia's "look East" policy of development did not necessarily restrict it to buying only in the East. The Malaysian Government is pleased with a rise in British investment and showed interest in attracting further British finance for its manufacturing industries.

Dr Mahathir also expressed satisfaction with the interest shown by British Universities in new arrangements which his Government intends to introduce for Malaysian students planning to study in the UK. The Government is proposing to set up universities which would take students for the first two years of their studies before moving to the UK.

Owen plan to limit CND candidates resisted by Liberals

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

Liberal Party unilateralists are planning to resist any pressure from Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, to limit the number of Alliance parliamentary candidates who support the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Dr Owen said in an interview on Thames Television's TV Eye programme that he hoped it would be possible to limit the number of such candidates. Last night he was warned that any pressure from the leadership on the issue would be fought fiercely.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft, Liberal MP for Leeds West and a member of CND's national council, said that if Dr Owen tried to stop the selection of any candidates for such reasons "he wouldn't stand a chance of getting away with it."

"It's almost as if he's trying to force on to the Alliance the strict adherence to the manifesto that he left the Labour Party to get away from."

Several Social Democratic candidates as well as Liberals were open supporters of CND during the 1983 general election.

Dr Owen's anxiety about the shape of the Alliance's joint programme, effectively its election manifesto, was heightened last week by the adoption of a resolution calling for a phased withdrawal of British military bases from Scotland.

The joint policy group which will discuss the Alliance's defence policy is not expected to

come to any firm conclusions before the autumn, although some of its main features are already clear, for example continued membership of Nato and the cancellation of Trident.

Dr Owen and Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, share the view that any move towards unilateralism would be damaging. Mr Meadowcroft and his Liberal colleagues who share his view believe it is possible to find common ground between the two sides of his argument, but he said last night that such an agreement depended on the leadership of both parties accepting that there would be parliamentary candidates with differing views on the details of policy.

Mr Steel, in a letter to the Young Liberals' Easter conference, has supported churchmen protesting at "the social and spiritual desert" of Thatcherism.

He said the Government was sacrificing everything that was best in Britain — decency, neighbourliness and a sense of fair play — in the hope of an economic miracle which would not be achieved.

"The only way to mobilise the energies of our people for a peaceful revolution in industry, with new technology and new methods, is by greater fairness, not less," he said.

"There is extraordinary private affluence for the few and growing public squalor for the many. No wonder so many churchmen have felt obliged to protest at the social and spiritual desert of Thatcherism, unwatered by the refreshing springs of altruism, generosity, and hope."

Thatcher fantasy

MR DENIS Healey is angry with the magazine *Penthouse* over remarks he made about Mrs Thatcher as a sex addict.

Mr Healey, the Labour Foreign Affairs spokesman, has accused the magazine of quoting him without permission in an interview in the May issue, out next week. *Penthouse* has denied the claim.

In an article by staff journalist Cathy Galvin Mr Healey says: "She can lead the Tory Party because she reminds the average public schoolboy of childhood fantasy — a matron and the enigmatic Miss Murgatroyd."

"You know long patent leather boots, a whip and a black corset."

Teachers' chaos threat

Continued from page one

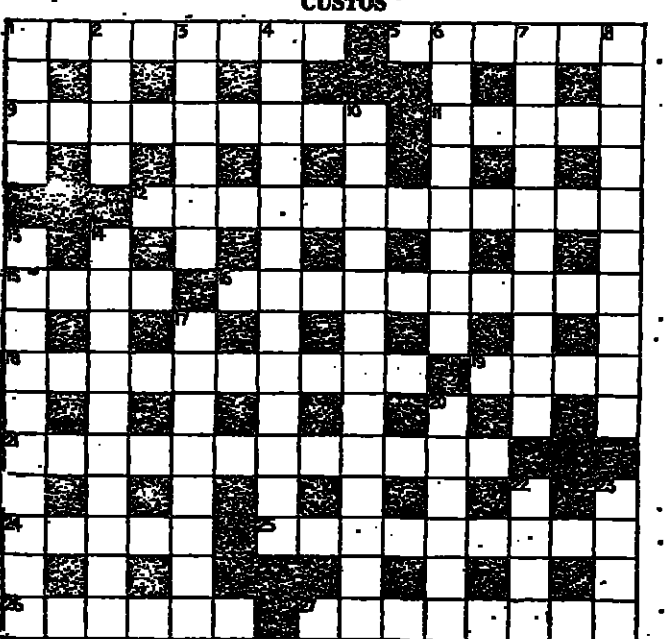
and we wanted to grind their faces in the dirt, they could be forgiven for being tempted to do it in this way," said Mr Merriale.

He claimed: "The national leadership seems bent on preventing their members having access to a solution."

Mr Doug McAvey, deputy general secretary of the NUT, said yesterday: "The executive is putting to conference a policy which will give it considerable power in determining the degree of activity in any one area."

"It gives tremendous power to vary the degree of action having regard to the attitude of the local authority and the wishes of our members."

GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,203



- ACROSS
- 1 Follower of Garibaldi, rebels' leader, dithers badly (3-5).
- 5 Share certificates with head of Treasury's handwriting (6).
- 9 Something chewy and unsubstantial a simpleton rejected (6-3).
- 11 Unsuccessful chap's stinger, having lost capital (5).
- 12 Obstructed when carrying corn, that perverse (5-7).
- 13 For this oak I'll need a dictionary, not an image (4).
- 14 Vegetables put back the turn (3).
- 15 State's spiritual leader, one gripping iron, swinging (10).
- 16 A cad infiltrating the elite (4).
- 17 Swaps ten rings, each intricately fashioned (12).
- 24 Composer making heads of government rap, in ecstasy, generally (6).
- 25 Attendant goes around burning minister's home (9).
- 26 It's small and dainty — pamper it with energy (6).
- DOWN
- 1, 2 A hitch before one makes new sound-track of drum-rolls (3-1-4).
- 3 Legal term for extremes of hostility surrounding wicked liar (6).
- 4 This prig's rare, in a way, in a recorder's office (13).
- 6 Everything put up in the wood is breaking down (6).
- 7 Obliquely suggests Auntie's worried about vice (10).
- 8 Story about artist, Diana and divine is a lie (10).
- 10 Attractive guide for wandering travellers? (13).
- 13 Marrying causes temporary stoppage in rearing dog (8-2).
- 14 Elegant writer, a handsome woman, given appointment, we hear (10).
- 17 Father engaged in a scrap causes scare (8).
- 20 Enlist again and reply to charge (6).
- 22, 23 Members exposed concerning payment in club (4,4).
- Solution on Monday

THE WEATHER

Warm with showers

A DEPRESSION will be slow moving to NW of British Isles. A showery SW airstream will spread across most areas.

London, E Anglia, SE and E England: Scattered showers, sun, some rain. Wind SW, moderate. Max 15°C, min 10°C. Rainfall: 0.5 to 1.0 in. (1-4).

Cardiff, E and W Wales: Scattered showers, sun, some rain. Wind SW, moderate. Max 15°C, min 10°C. Rainfall: 0.5 to 1.0 in. (1-4).

Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Belfast, N Ireland: Scattered showers, sun, some rain. Wind SW, moderate. Max 15°C, min 10°C. Rainfall: 0.5 to 1.0 in. (1-4).

Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Coventry, Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth, Southampton, Portsmouth, London, E Anglia, SE and E England: Scattered showers, sun, some rain. Wind SW, moderate. Max 15°C, min 10°C. Rainfall: 0.5 to 1.0 in. (1-4).

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp	Wind	Clouds	Pressure
London	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Edinburgh	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Birmingham	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Manchester	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Leeds	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Sheffield	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Nottingham	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Derby	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Leicester	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Coventry	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Bristol	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Exeter	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Plymouth	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Southampton	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Portsmouth	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
London	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Temp	Wind	Clouds	Pressure
London	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Edinburgh	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Birmingham	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Manchester	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Leeds	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Sheffield	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Nottingham	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Derby	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Leicester	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Coventry	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Bristol	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Exeter	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Plymouth	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Southampton	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Portsmouth	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
London	15	SW	Partly cloudy	1015

SEA PASSAGES

Route	Time	Wind	Clouds	Pressure
London to Dover	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Dover to Calais	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Calais to Dunkirk	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Dunkirk to Zeebrugge	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Zeebrugge to Ostend	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Ostend to Antwerp	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Antwerp to Rotterdam	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Rotterdam to Amsterdam	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Amsterdam to Copenhagen	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Copenhagen to Stockholm	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Stockholm to Helsinki	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Helsinki to Tallinn	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Tallinn to Riga	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Riga to Vilnius	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Vilnius to Kaunas	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Kaunas to Klaipeda	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Klaipeda to Riga	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Riga to Tallinn	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Tallinn to Helsinki	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Helsinki to Stockholm	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Stockholm to Copenhagen	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Copenhagen to Amsterdam	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Amsterdam to Rotterdam	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Rotterdam to Antwerp	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Antwerp to Zeebrugge	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Zeebrugge to Dunkirk	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Dunkirk to Calais	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Calais to Dover	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015
Dover to London	1.5	SW	Partly cloudy	1015

Sea Breeze	3-7	06 15 55	Hot sun	23
Sea Breeze	2-3	16 12 15	Rain	24
Sea Breeze	2-3	16 12 15	Hot sun	25
Sea Breeze	2-3	16 12 15	Hot sun	26
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